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THE
HISTORY,
TOPOGRAPHY, AND ANTIQUITIES,
OF THE
COUNTY AND CITY OF
LIMERICK;

HISTORY, TOPOGRAPHY, AND ANTIQUITIES,

COUNTY AND CITY OF LIMERICK.

VOL. I.

DUBLIN.

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OF THE

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1855

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WITH A
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OF IRELAND.

BY THE REV. P. FITZGERALD,
VICAR OF CAHIRCORNEY IN THE DIOCESE OF EMLY;

AND
J. J. M'GREGOR,
AUTHOR OF "THE HISTORY OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION," &c.

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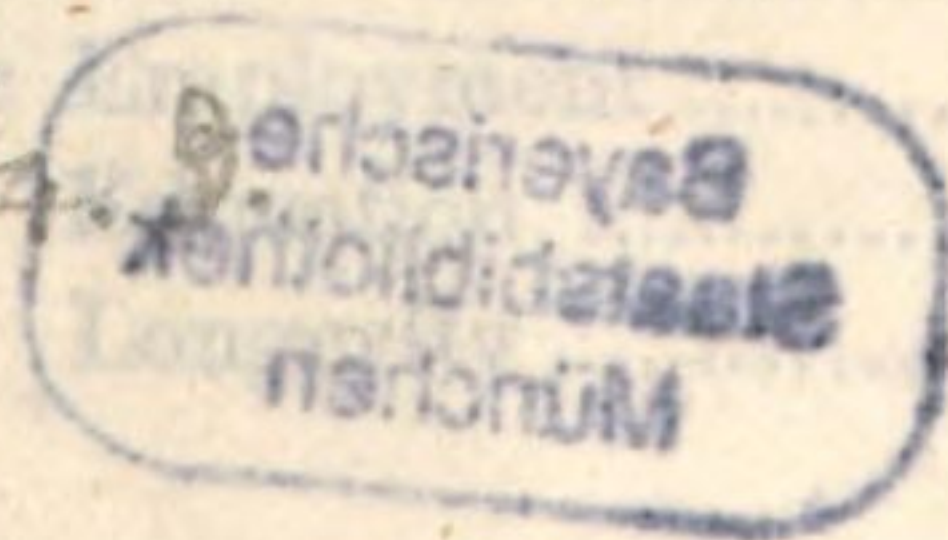
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THE HISTORY OF LIMERICK.

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TO HIS GRACE

THE MOST REVEREND RICHARD LAWRENCE, D. D.

LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CASHEL.

MY LORD,

Many motives combine to induce me to commit to your Lordship's Protection and Patronage, this History of the County and City of Limerick.

The dignified station which you hold in the Church of Ireland, as Primate of Munster, renders it peculiarly appropriate that I should dedicate to your Lordship, the History of an important and interesting Portion of that Province.

Of your Grace's distinguished literary attainments, I shall not presume to speak; but the true Christian Benevolence, which has guided the whole of your Grace's conduct, since you have filled the

Archiepiscopal See of Cashel, has rendered you peculiarly fitted for the Ecclesiastical Government of a Province, alas ! too much divided on the great subject of Religion. In the same spirit, I trust, the following pages have been written.

Need I add, my Lord, that I am not uninfluenced by a sense of gratitude for personal obligations. The great kindness which I had experienced from your pious and amiable Predecessor, has been continued by your Lordship ; and it is my sincere and ardent Prayer, that you may long be spared to the Church of Ireland, to encourage by example and advice, your Clergy, and all within the sphere of your influence, in the practice of those precepts enjoined by our Holy Religion, to love God above all things, and our neighbour as ourselves, whatever may be his creed or country.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

With sincere respect,

Your Grace's most obedient,

And most faithful Servant,

P. FITZGERALD.

PRELIMINARY VIEW
OF THE
HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES
OF
I R E L A N D.

AN author who should undertake the difficult task of writing a general history of Ireland, must, for the most obvious reasons, divide his work into three grand periods, namely, the *fabulous*, the *obscure*, and the *authentic*. In the early history of all countries, more or less of fable is to be found, with the exception of those nations whose origin is transmitted to us by the pen of inspiration: and this will cease to be matter of wonder, when we consider how slow the progress of letters must have been during the infancy of the world. To provide for the supply and gratification of his most pressing wants and appetites formed man's sole employment in his primeval and independent state; but as the population of the earth increased, social communities were

formed, most probably at first for purposes of aggression or defence. The original equality of mankind was henceforth at an end; for a sense of common benefit, or of common danger, led men to unite in conferring power and dignity on those who excelled in wisdom, strength, or valour; or who had sufficient artifice to persuade their countrymen that they were possessed of those endowments. To perpetuate power thus acquired by a few, talents of a different description were gradually called into exercise; and it is not improbable that the earliest efforts at composition were connected with the celebration of those great actions, by which the heroes of antiquity constituted themselves the benefactors, or the oppressors of the human race. The extemporaneous effusions to their honour, were delivered in poetic measure; which being committed to memory, became the only kind of record possessed by any nation before the invention of letters. These traditional annals could not fail, through successive generations, to be so grossly exaggerated and distorted, as to render them incredible; or, at least, capable of emitting only the faintest gleams of historic truth.

From such materials were the first historians obliged to draw their conjectures respecting the origin of nations—and that pride of ancestry, which is so natural a foible of the human mind, rendered them not too fastidious in embracing any hypothesis, which would enable them to trace the history of their

native country to an honourable and remote commencement. As a national feeling, this may appear pardonable; but every man who studies history as a sincere enquirer after truth, must agree in the sentiment of an eminent writer, that “the beginnings of all people and kingdoms, are as difficult to be found out as the heads of great rivers: and if they could be known, would promote very little either our virtue or our reputation.” *

It is, therefore, not peculiar to Ireland, that its early annals should be involved in almost impenetrable gloom. But even after the nation assumed a more settled form, a variety of unpropitious circumstances concurred to render the preservation of her history particularly difficult. The nature of the government under her native princes, was the prolific parent of interminable feuds, which spread desolation and barbarism all over the land, even at the time when learning flourished in her colleges with a degree of lustre that rendered them renowned throughout Europe. The records of the country, which were preserved with assiduous care in the cloisters of the monks, became afterwards a prey to the fury of the northern barbarians, who were for some centuries the scourge of this unhappy land; and who sought, with relentless rage, the destruction of every vestige of her ancient greatness.—Considerable obscurity must, therefore, rest on this portion of our history. Since the Eng-

* SAMUEL DANIEL'S *History of England*.

lish invasion, our annals have become more authentic ; but still, the historian of the present day must examine, with peculiar care and distrust, the conflicting testimonies of partisan writers of both countries : for, it is a fact too lamentably obvious, that the two nations, though living under the same government for nearly seven centuries ; and though they have now become, as far as it respects the upper and middle classes, greatly assimilated to each other in manners and character, continue as much divided as ever on political subjects. Partaking of these cruel and impolitic animosities which have been, to the present, the bane and curse of Ireland, writers of either party have, with a few exceptions, sacrificed truth and probability to their own prepossessions, exalting, or depreciating beyond due bounds, the character of a people, who, considering the unpropitious circumstances in which they have been placed from the earliest period of their history, have proved themselves to be, at least, not inferior to any nation in the world in the exercise of the noblest mental and corporeal endowments.

As a preliminary to the immediate subject of this work, we have deemed it necessary to give a short outline of Irish history and antiquities ; not with the hope of being able to shed any new lights on the political and military annals of our country ; but with the view of exhibiting the character and manners of the people, under the various revolutions of government to which they have been subjected.

NAMES.

Ireland was known to the ancients under the various names of Erin, Ierne, Hibernia, and Scotia. Diodorus Alexandrinus calls it by the first of those appellations ; while it is denominated Ierne by Aristotle and Claudian, and Hibernia, by Cæsar, Tacitus, and Pliny. Camden conjectures, that the island was thus named from its situation---*Hiar*, in the Irish language, signifying the West. Bochart derives it from the Phœnician word *Ibernæ*, which denotes the remotest habitation ; while Sir James Ware coincides in opinion with Isidore and others, who deduce it from Iberia ; both because of the colonies of Iberians, or Spaniards, once seated there ; and also for the affinity of the name. Why Ireland bore the name of Scotia, is more difficult to ascertain. Our native historians assert that the island was thus denominated by the sons of Milesius, either in honour of their mother Scota, who was said to have been a daughter of one of the Pharaohs ; or because they were themselves of the posterity of the Scuits or Scots in Scythia. It is contended by others, that the name of Scots was never heard of in Ireland till the third or fourth century of the Christian era,—and from that period, it was called indifferently, for some ages, Hibernia or Scotia ; until, at last, it entirely lost the latter appellation, which followed the Scots into North Britain. With regard to its more modern name of Ireland, Sir William Temple conceives it to have been given by

the Saxons, from the river Ierne in this island. But the book of Ardmagh records, that the name signifies "Ire's grave." Ire, who was one of the sons of Milesius, having been the first man of that colony, who was interred upon the island.

COLONIZATION.

Not less diversified are the opinions of our antiquaries respecting the first colonization of Ireland; nor have our Irish writers fallen short of those of any nation in anxiety to confer upon their country a very remote and glorious origin, some ancient chronicles having assigned it even an antediluvian population. Others, not quite so romantic, content themselves with peopling the country immediately on the dispersion of mankind at Babel, that is, three hundred years after the flood; when, they tell us, Partholan, a descendant from Japhet, led a colony into Ireland, after being driven out of Greece. To these succeeded the Fomorians, a wicked race, descended from Ham, and fierce contentions ensued between the two parties, which terminated in the total depopulation of the island. After it had continued for some years in this condition, a new colony of the posterity of Japhet arrived from the Euxine Sea, under the command of Nemedius, who retained possession of the island for more than two centuries. These, like their ancestors, were also invaded by the Fomorians, who ultimately subdued them, and remained masters of the country for four hundred

years, when perpetual civil wars ended in their total extinction. Soon after this, the posterity of Nemedius are again introduced, under the name of Fir-Bolgs or Belgæ. This people, after their expulsion from Ireland four centuries before, are said to have formed settlements in Gaul and Britain, from whence they despatched five thousand men, in the year of the world 2657, to resume the possession of their ancient inheritance. This colony, we are told, was led by five principal commanders, the sons of Dela, who divided the country into five parts, in each of which one of the brothers was acknowledged as king; while Slangey, who had the province of Leinster under his command, was proclaimed supreme monarch.

The Fir-Bolgs are said to have possessed the island for eighty years, through a succession of nine sovereign chiefs. In the reign of the last of these monarchs, Ireland was invaded by another colony of the posterity of Nemedius, called by the Irish writers Tuatha-de-Danans or Danonians. These are said to have arrived from Norway and Sweden, in the year of the world 2737, and defeated the Belgians with the loss of many thousands including their monarch. The remnant of the latter took refuge in the isles of Man, Arran, and some of the Hebrides, from whence, after a lapse of twenty years, they made an attempt to regain possession of the country; but meeting a second overthrow, the effort proved abortive, and the Danonians retained the undis-

turbed dominion of Ireland for nearly two centuries. They are represented in our native records as a learned, commercial, and maritime people, who introduced the sword, the spear, and the war-horse into Ireland; and what, according to tradition, was still more important, the famous Laigh-Tail, or Stone of Destiny, on which succeeding monarchs were crowned, and on which the Kings of England have been inaugurated since the time of Edward the First, who, in the year 1296, had it conveyed, with other regalia, from the Abbey of Scone in Scotland, to Westminster Abbey, where it still remains.*

* Of this fatal stone, George Buck, in his *Life of Richard III.*, says, "The other monument of the British Empire is the marble stone, whereupon Jacob laid his head when he had those celestial and mystical visions, mentioned in Holy Writ; which stone was brought out of Palestine into Ireland, and from thence carried into Scotland by King Keneth; after translated to the city of Scone, and used for the chair wherein the kings sate at their coronation; brought out of Scotland by Edward I. into England, as the best historians of Scotland and England relate, viz. Hector Boëtius, lib. iv., George Buchanan, Gulielmus Cambden."

The following is another version of the travels of this celebrated stone:—When Fergus the Great had reduced North Britain, about the year 503, he requested his brother, Mortough Macmore, the monarch of Ireland, to send him this stone, for the greater solemnity of his coronation, as it had been the received opinion that wherever it was preserved, there a prince of Scythian or Irish race would reign. This appears from the very old and well-known ream or verse,

Ni fallit fatum Scoti quocumque locatum
Invenient lapidem regnare tenenter ibidem.

Or Fate's belied, or where this stone is found,
A prince of Scottish race shall there be crown'd.

The last successful invasion of Ireland which occurred previous to the Christian era, is said to be that of the Milesians, a Spanish colony, A.M. 2934. They are stated by our chronicles to have been descended from a long line of heroes in Egypt and Phœnicia, who, after subduing Spain, now spread their conquests to the remotest western boundaries of Europe; and these assertions derive considerable support from foreign testimonies. The Milesians, we are informed, landed in the West of Munster, under the conduct of Heber, Heremon, and Amergin, three sons of the celebrated Mile Espaine or Milesius; and having vanquished the Danonians in two bloody battles, they obtained the complete dominion of the island. Heber immediately assumed the sovereignty of the two provinces of Munster; Leinster and Connaught fell to the share of Heremon; Ulster was appropriated to the principal officers of the expedition; and Amergin was declared Supreme Druid and Judge. From the brothers Heber and Heremon, according to the authorities which we have quoted, the Irish monarchs derived their descent to the period of the English invasion, with very few exceptions.

We shall now take some notice of another hypothesis with respect to the original colonization of Ireland, which has been maintained with great force of reason and erudition by a very numerous class of writers. Camden the antiquarian, in agreement with Tacitus and Claudian, affirms, that Ireland was originally peopled by Britons; but that afterwards,

from the revolutions which arose in different countries, Gauls, Germans, and Spaniards were compelled to seek refuge there. Spenser, in his View of the State of Ireland, asserts, that the Gauls were the first inhabitants of Britain and Ireland; that this people settled in the south, the Scythians in the north, and the Spaniards in the west of this country.* The celebrated Sir William Petty conjectures, that according to the law and course of nature, the places nearest Carrickfergus were first peopled by adventurers from the parts of Scotland opposite thereto. He thinks the Britons might come from Holyhead, or St. David's Head; but that the primitive possessors arrived from Scotland, the passage being short, and performed in the slightest boats; and he also produces the identity of the Erse and Irish languages as complete evidence of the fact. We are told that the Scythian and German nations inhabited caves a great part of the year, and so did the Firbolgs or Belgæ. Smyth, in his History of the County of Cork, enumerates many of them; some are natural, some artificial, and most of them retain vestiges of human residence. The very learned Charles O'Connor of Ballynegar countenances this opinion, in his dissertation prefixed to his Ogygia Vindicated. He

* Spenser appears to have derived his opinion from Tacitus, the famous annalist, who served for some time with the Roman army in Britain; and he founds his supposition of this three-fold descent of the Irish on their similitude in manners, features, and language to the respective nations from whence they had sprung.

says, that Ireland being originally peopled by Celtic and Scytho-Celtic colonies from North and South Britain, retained the same barbarous customs ; and he also affirms, that it was not until the fifth age of Christianity that letters were introduced amongst us by the Roman missionaries. Mr. O'Flaherty, who diligently applied himself to the study of the history and antiquities of his native country, thinks with Camden, that the first inhabitants of Ireland were from the countries nearest to it ; "for," he says, "the world was not colonized at one and the same time. It is natural to suppose that the countries nearer the east were first inhabited ; and that, in like manner in Europe, Greece was inhabited before Italy, Italy before Gaul, and Gaul before Britain. That the islands were so disposed of by Divine Providence, that one could be seen from some part of another ; wherefore it was reasonable to think that they were resorted to in the beginning from the nearest rather than from the more distant places."*

* The most celebrated geographers agree that ancient Europe was possessed by four grand classes of men, viz. the Celtes, who extended themselves from the Bosphorus Cimmerius on the Euxine to the Cimbric Chersonese of Denmark and the Rhine, dispersing themselves over Western Europe and her isles ; the Scythians, who came from Persia, and spread from thence to the Euxine, and almost over all Europe, speaking the Gothic, and its kindred dialects, the Teutonic, the Frisic, Belgic, &c.; the Iberi or Mauri, who came from Africa and peopled Spain and Aquitain, and their language survives in the Cantabrig or Basque ; and the Sarmatæ, whose language

After the most candid examination of those conflicting opinions, it must appear impossible to determine with any degree of accuracy at what time Ireland first received her inhabitants; but we can by no means coincide with Pinkerton, Whitaker, and others, who fix it so late as three centuries before the Christian era. Writers of a much earlier date countenance the hypothesis of an origin more remote. Diodorus Siculus, who lived in the reign of Darius Hystaspes, near six hundred years before the Christian era, is generally supposed to allude to Ireland, when he speaks of an island little less than Sicily, opposite to the Celtæ, and inhabited by Hyperboreans; he describes it as a pleasant country, dedicated to Apollo, most of whose inhabitants were priests or songsters; and by various authors Ireland is considered to be the Atlantic Isle, so often mentioned by Diodorus, Aristotle, Plutarch, Strabo, and others.*

was the Slavonic, and whose appearance in Europe was later than the others.

* From some passages in Plutarch, O'Halloran offers a conjecture, that the *sacra et delecta cohors* of the Carthaginians, mentioned by Diodorus and others, was a select body of Irish troops in the pay of that people. From the time of the Scipios until the reign of Augustus, a space of more than two hundred years, Spain struggled with the Romans for independence; and we may naturally suppose, that as Ireland was but a few days' sail from Spain, they had auxiliaries from thence, and that the Carthaginians had them also. Hannibal's army was mostly made up of foreign troops, a great part of which he brought from Spain after the taking of Saguntum.

Plutarch, in his life of Sertorius, tells us, that this celebrated

At the arrival of the Milesians terminates what may with propriety be called the fabulous, or, at least, uncertain period of Irish history; for though traditional annals may possess some degree of truth for their foundation, yet the deficiency of written records will ever render them liable to

commander determined to make the Atlantic Isle a place of retreat and residence from the persecution of his enemies. In another work entitled "*De facie in orbe Lunæ*," he describes this Atlantic Isle to be opposite the Celtæ, and but four days sail from Britain. The Irish legions in Gaul were called *Fine Gall*, those in Albany, *Fine Alban*. "We may well suppose," says O'Halloran, "that the *Fine Tomharaigh*, or African legions, so often met with in the old Irish manuscripts, meant no other than the Irish cohorts in that service."

That Ireland was the happy Hyperborean Isle alluded to by Diodorus and Hecateus, is supposed to be confirmed by the picture of it given more than 1400 years ago, by Donatus, an Italian bishop :

*Finibus occiduis describitur optima tellus
Nimine ab antiquis Scotia scripta libris
Insula dives opum, gemmarum, vestis et auri
Commoda corporibus aere, sole, solo, &c.*

TRANSLATION.

Far westward lies an Isle of ancient fame,
By nature blessed, and Scotia is her name
Enroll'd in books; exhaustless is her store
Of veiny silver, and of golden ore.
Her fruitful soil for ever teems with wealth,
With gems her waters, and her air with health.
Her verdant fields with milk and honey flow,
Her woolly fleeces vie with virgin snow.
Her waving furrows float with bearded corn;
And arms and arts her envied sons adorn.
No savage Bear with lawless fury roves,
No rav'nous Lion thro' her peaceful groves,
No poison there infects, no scaly snake
Creeps through the grass, nor frog annoys the lake;
An Island worthy of its pious race,
In war triumphant, and unmatched in peace.

suspicion. The history of the subsequent two thousand years, during which Ireland was governed by her native princes, must be considered as obscure, from the paucity of materials which exist to enable us to judge of the truth of facts transmitted to us, or to draw rational conclusions of the real state of the country during that long period. In pursuing our outline, we feel many objections to the guidance both of English and Irish writers, the former being interested in depreciating every thing connected with the ancient state of the country, while the latter, perhaps, consulted truth as little, in their anxiety to exalt the antiquities, the renown, and the splendour of the Irish nation. But, however they may differ with regard to the origin and character of the people of this island, there appears to be some agreement respecting the succession and actions of the Irish monarchs, of whom near two hundred are said to have reigned in lineal succession. Of these considerably more than one half perished in battle, or were assassinated by their subjects; the elective nature of the government proving, as it invariably does, a fruitful source of civil contention.

POLITICAL AND CIVIL HISTORY.

In the following sketch of the succession and reigns of the most celebrated Irish monarchs, we must necessarily be guided by the advocates of a Milesian ancestry, who inform us, that soon after the brothers Heber and Heremon assumed the sovereignty of

the island, disputes arose between them, which terminated in the death of the former, and from that period Heremon became sole monarch. He then divided the country between his principal officers, and after a reign of thirteen years, during which he gained several victories over predatory bodies of Picts and Britons, he left the crown jointly between his three sons.

From this period Ireland, for more than three hundred years, presented a scene of the most sanguinary contention between the descendants of Heber and Heremon, almost every monarch perishing by the hand of his successor. This was terminated by the long and prosperous reign of Ollam Fodla, who gave to the Irish government a degree of strength and consistency to which it had not heretofore attained; and according to our ancient records, he possessed no ordinary talents for legislation. They give the most splendid accounts of the regular assemblage of a triennial convention at the palace of Tara, which was composed of the provincial kings and nobility, the druids, and the deputies of the people. This assembly was called *Fes Teambrack*. Business was preceded by a magnificent entertainment, which continued for six days, at which the monarch presided in regal state. At these meetings the records of the kingdom are said to have been examined and corrected with the greatest care; laws enacted or repealed, disputes between the provinces adjusted, and great offenders adjudged and punished

according to their crimes. With all due allowance for the probably exaggerated praise which has been bestowed on a monarch of that rude age, we are disposed to rank Ollam Fodla amongst the wisest legislators of ancient times; but his successors, for nearly three centuries, do not seem to have profited by his example, for of thirty-one monarchs who governed Ireland during that long period, only three died a natural death. Hugony, surnamed the Great, ascended the throne A.M. 3619. He was married to a daughter of France, and reigned for thirty years, during which he gained many advantages over the Picts, and extended his empire to the Western Islands. He also compelled the provincial kings and grandees to swear allegiance to him and the descendants of Heremon, in exclusion of the other branches of the Milesian race.

The annals of Ireland for several centuries after the reign of Hugony, abound with narratives of court intrigues, having love or ambition for their object; relations of military exploits, performed in the continual wars waged among the provincial kings, particularly those of Ulster and Connaught; and with the fierce contentions arising from the elections of the monarchs. The country, however, was blessed with comparative tranquillity under Conary the Great, who ascended the throne A.M. 3937, and enjoyed the regal dignity for the long period of sixty years. He is represented as a wise and good monarch, under whose sway the arts of peace were

cultivated, and commerce was greatly extended; yet he treated the people of Leinster with unjust severity, because his father had been murdered by a prince of that country. For the crime of this individual he punished the whole province, by exacting a considerable annual fine, to be paid to him and his successors for ever. He also annexed the whole of Ossory to the province of Munster, his native country. Conary perished in the flames of his own palace at Tara, which was surprized and set on fire by a desperate band of invaders from Wales.

The reign of Conary was rendered particularly remarkable as the period of our Saviour's incarnation, and the dates of the accession of the subsequent Irish princes are given from the commencement of the Christian era. In A. D. 74, Crimthan I. succeeded to the throne. He joined the Picts against the Romans, and after distinguishing himself in many battles, returned to Ireland, loaded with spoils and trophies of the richest description. He is also said to have acquired many military and mechanic arts, which tended greatly to advance his people both in discipline and civilization. On the death of this monarch, an attempt was made by the posterity of the Fir-Bolgs, or Belgians, to subvert the Milesian government, after it had existed eleven hundred years. They succeeded so far as to place Carbry, of that race, on the throne, which he filled till his death; but his son Moran, with a disinterestedness

scarcely to be paralleled, resigned the crown to Feredach, the son of Crimthan, of the Milesian race, and contented himself with the office of Chief Justice, which he executed with an integrity that became proverbial. Feredach has obtained the character of a wise and just prince; but after his death contentions again broke out, which terminated in the assassination of his successor, and the usurpation of the throne by Elim, King of Ulster. However, after a lapse of four years, Tuathal, or Toole, the son of the murdered sovereign, arrived from Scotland at the head of a numerous army, and was elected King at Tara with the most joyful acclamations. The usurper soon after perished in battle.

The reign of Tuathal, which continued thirty-four years, is stated to have been one of the most prosperous in our annals. At the first general assembly which was held at Tara, the succession to the crown was recognized in his family, and a tract of land was separated from each of the four provinces, which met together at a certain place, for the demesne lands of the crown. These portions were formed into what is now called the county of Meath. Tuathal built palaces in each of the provinces, established some important regulations connected with the religion and the manners of the people; and, by these means, he introduced a degree of order and tranquillity into the country, with which it had been hitherto unacquainted. The close of his life was, however, embittered by the perfidious conduct of his son-in-law, the King of Leinster. For this,

Tuathal,[†] like his predecessor Conary, took a revenge, highly unjustifiable, on the whole province, and which entailed misery on the country for many succeeding generations. To appease his vengeance, the people of Leinster agreed to pay him and his successors, every second year, three thousand cows, and as many hogs, sheep, ounces of silver, and mantles. This was ever after known by the name of the Borome or Leinster tribute.

The short reigns of Feidlim and Cathir present no incident worthy of notice; but under the government of Conn (surnamed of the hundred battles), the country was much agitated by intestine commotions. He ascended the throne, A. D. 177, and after vanquishing the King of Leinster, he joined Angus, King of Munster, who was of the Degad family,* with a large army, against Eugene, a prince of the line of Heber, who had driven Angus from the government of that province. After various successes, Conn obliged Eugene to quit the kingdom and fly into Spain, from whence he speedily returned with a powerful army, and not only recovered Munster, but compelled Conn to a division of Ireland, known in after ages by the name of Leath-Conn and Leath-Mogha. But in less than a year from this event, Eugene, with his Spanish auxiliaries, was surprised by the Irish monarch, and put to the sword; Conn himself was soon after assassinated, at the instigation

* This family was descended from an illegitimate son of Angus II. Monarch of Ireland.

of the King of Ulster. He was succeeded by his son-in-law Conary II. of the Degad family, who took ample vengeance on the people of Ulster, and raised a prince of his own family to the sovereignty of that province. Having, after a short reign, met the fate of his predecessor, the throne was occupied by Arthur, the son of Conn, who reigned for thirty years in the midst of family dissensions which proved highly injurious to the state. Olliol Olom, the son of Eugene, who had fallen by the sword of Conn, now occupied the throne of Munster; and by one of those unnatural alliances which we sometimes meet in the history of nations, had married the daughter of the destroyer of his father, and the sister of the reigning monarch. Mac Conn, the Chief Justice of Munster, having been banished by Olliol Olom, returned in a hostile manner, accompanied by Bein-Brit, a prince of Wales, with a numerous army of various nations. Having disembarked, they summoned King Arthur to resign the government, or decide the quarrel in the field. The challenge was accepted, and a bloody battle ensued, in which Arthur, the King of Connaught, and seven sons of Olliol Olom lost their lives. Mac Conn now took possession of the vacant crown, which he enjoyed but three years, having been assassinated by the contrivance of Cormac, the son of Arthur, who, after a successful struggle with the King of Ulster, whom he slew in battle, mounted the throne A. D. 254.

Cormac swayed the sceptre for twenty-five years, and is represented in the Irish chronicles as a prince of consummate wisdom and prudence, who brought about various changes in the laws and customs of his country, of the most beneficial nature. The most splendid descriptions are given of the style in which he supported the regal dignity. His palaces are said to have glittered with gold and silver, while his person was guarded by bands of the most distinguished heroes. For the improvement of the rising generation, he established schools for instruction in every branch of useful knowledge; and from his principal college emanated 'the Psalter of Tara,' in which all the important records of the country were collected. His love of domestic grandeur and prosperity is said, however, not to have diminished his ardour for military glory. He sent a numerous fleet to the coast of North Britain, which gained some successes in that quarter; and he gave the army of Munster many signal overthrows. But the close of his reign was marked by misfortunes of various kinds. Instigated by a wicked minister, he made war upon the King of Munster, because he had refused the payment of an unjust tribute. Being totally defeated by the Momonians, Cormac was forced to sign degrading terms of peace; and this event was speedily followed by a domestic rebellion, in which the Irish monarch lost a son, and had one of his own eyes put out. As this blemish rendered him, in those days, incapable of wearing the crown, he

resigned it to his son, Carbry II. and spent the remainder of his life in honorable privacy, during which he is said to have written "A Book of Advice for Kings," for the use of his successor. He is also stated, by some of our writers, to have strenuously opposed the idolatrous superstitions of the Druids; and his example is supposed to have facilitated the subsequent propagation of Christianity. It was in the reign of Cormac that the Irish militia, under Finn Mac Comhall, acquired such celebrity, and formed the ground-work for many an heroic poem by the bards of aftertimes. Finn, who was married to a daughter of Cormac, had the command of the Irish standing army, consisting in time of peace of nine thousand men, and amounting, during war or insurrection, to twenty-one thousand.*

* The qualifications necessary to gain admittance into this band of heroes were, according to our native historians, quite in accordance with the marvellous exploits which have been attributed to the soldiers of Finn Mac Comhall. Every candidate should possess a poetical genius—he should defend himself unhurt against the javelins of nine soldiers—he should run through a wood pursued by a company of the militia without being overtaken—leap over a tree as high as his forehead, and stoop easily under another as low as his knees. If thus qualified, he should take an oath of allegiance to the king and the commander-in-chief, and subscribe the following articles: that he would never marry a woman for her portion—never offer violence to any woman—never turn his back to nine men of any other nation—and that he would be charitable to the poor! They had subsistence allowed them only in the winter half year. In the summer months they were en-

Carbry II. reigned with great honour for seventeen years, and then lost his life in a battle with the King of Munster and Ossian, the son of Finn Mac Comhall. The reign of Fiadra II. and Muredach were marked by civil dissensions, which ended in the destruction of the King of Ulster and his celebrated palace of Eamania, which had subsisted almost seven hundred years. Muredach fell in battle by the hands of Colbach, and his death was avenged by Achy Moimedin, his son, who was the father of the celebrated Niall of the Nine Hostages, who ascended the throne A.D. 379. This prince, thirsting for military renown, went to Scotland with a numerous army, to assist his brethren the Dalriada, against the Picts; and after devastating the country of South Britain, and transporting his forces thence into Armorica, or Brittany, in France, he brought away much plunder and many prisoners, amongst whom is said to have been St. Patrick, then sixteen years of age. Encouraged by his first success, Niall undertook another expedition to France in conjunction with his Scottish allies. But his absence occasioned dissensions at home of the most serious nature, which ended in the death of the Monarch, who was treacherously shot with an arrow by a prince of Leinster, while reposing on the

camped in the fields, and supported themselves by hunting and fishing. The husbandman still pretends to discover marks of their fires, and when the plough turns up any black burnt earth, it is called *Fulacht Finn*.

banks of the Loire. Dathy, his successor, pursued the conquests of Niall, till he was killed by lightning at the foot of the Alps.

The succeeding reign of Logarry II. the son of Niall, may be considered truly memorable, as the period when, according to the generally received opinion, Christianity was established in Ireland, A. D. 430; though it is acknowledged, that efforts for that purpose had been previously made. But of this we shall speak more at large when we come to treat of the subject of religion. It does not, however, appear, that the reception of the peaceable religion of Christ abated the desire of military glory which actuated the Irish monarch and his subjects. Logarry having joined the Picts, with a powerful army, broke down the wall of Severus in various places, and laid the Britons under tribute. The reign of his successor, Oliol Molt, was only memorable for a fierce contest with the King of Leinster respecting the Boromean tribute; and after governing twenty years, he fell in battle with Lugad II. grandson to Niall the Great, in whose family the crown continued from this period, with few interruptions, until the dissolution of the monarchy.

The annals of the sixth and seventh centuries present us, through nineteen reigns, with little else than a frightful picture of intestine war, intermixed with legendary tales of saints, the foundations of colleges, abbeys and monasteries, and the progress of learning, which is said to have been so rapid, that Hugh I.

was forced to adopt strong measures to diminish the number of the bards, who were now stated to include a third part of the male population. This monarch summoned a convention of his principal nobility and clergy at Dromore, in order to reform several abuses which had crept into the government. This assembly, we are told, continued its sittings for thirteen months, and enacted many salutary laws, particularly restricting the number, and regulating the duties of the bards or poets; and it was rendered particularly memorable by a serious dispute between the Irish Monarch and Colum-Cill, the Abbot of Iona, which evinced the authority which the clergy had already begun to assume in national affairs.—From the death of Hugh, who was slain in battle with the King of Leinster, our history furnishes, during the two next centuries, little variety to dispel the gloom occasioned by the perusal of predatory inroads by the English, the Welsh, and the Picts—sanguinary intestine divisions, occasioned chiefly by that never-failing source of contention the Boromean tribute, and the rapid succession of twenty-three monarchs, twenty of whom perished by violent deaths.

But towards the close of the eighth century, a new era of suffering opened upon this unfortunate country, in comparison to which all its former calamities sink into insignificance. We allude to the invasion of the Danes, or Ostmen, who commenced their cruel inroads in the reign of Donogh. The

sovereign power of Ireland was, at this time, enjoyed in succession by two branches of what was called the Hy-Niall race, the northern house of Tirone, and the southern or Clan-Colman, settled in Meath. The power of the monarchy was now greatly enfeebled, and the subordinate dynasties factious and assuming. The first attempts of the northern barbarians seemed to have only plunder for their object, and they were repelled with little difficulty by the provincial chieftains. But these attacks being made on different points at once, while the natives were prevented from assisting each other by their mutual jealousies, succeeding efforts of the enemy proved more successful. The first formidable invasion of the Danes is said to have occurred in the second year of Hugh V. A.D. 799, when they arrived on the western coast of Munster with fifty sail of ships; but soon after they disembarked they were completely routed by the King of that province, with the loss of four hundred men. Another body landed at the same time in Ulster, where they destroyed the Abbey of Bangor, and put all the monks to death; but before they could escape with their rich booty, they were attacked by the King of Ulster, who killed twelve hundred of them. A third disembarkation was effected on the coast of Leinster, and, encouraged by the panic evinced by the inhabitants, they penetrated a considerable way into the country; but the people of Leinster and Munster uniting upon this occasion, assailed the invaders

with such determined valour, that they put seventeen hundred of them to the sword, and forced the remainder to abandon their ill-gotten booty.

Undismayed by these reverses, the northern rovers continued their petty inroads, while the Irish, instead of uniting for mutual defence, were continually weakening the national strength by intestine wars. By degrees the invaders obtained some small settlements in the country; and in the year 815, they arrived with such a force as in the end proved irresistible. This new horde was commanded by Turgesius or Thorgils, son of Harold Harfager, King of Norway. He divided his army into various bodies, which carried desolation and death through the entire northern half of the island, while his fleet, in three squadrons, ravaged the coast. Neither age, sex, nor condition was spared. Many of the priests and monks fell by the hands of these savages, and Turgesius took up his residence in the episcopal palace of Armagh, from whence he expelled the bishop and all his clergy.

While a barbarous enemy was thus carrying fire and sword throughout the country, the monarch Hugh was waging war with his own subjects, and perished in battle. His successor Connor pursued the same fatal course, and at the very time when the Danes were making rapid strides over the island, he carried on an unsuccessful war with the King of Ulster, the various factions alternately seeking the assistance of the common enemy in their deadly

feuds. After a sanguinary victory over the Leinster forces, the northern barbarians renewed their devastations with increased violence. Churches and religious houses became the particular objects of their fury. The consecrated vessels and every other article of value were seized, the clergy put to death or expelled, and the colleges at Armagh, Lismore, Clonard, and Cashell, with a number of inferior academies were totally destroyed. The monarch Connor made some fruitless attempts to rescue his country from the miseries by which it was oppressed, but mental anguish and bodily fatigue brought him to a premature grave in the fourteenth year of his reign. His successor was Niall III. who for some time, like his predecessors, appeared more anxious to weaken the power of the King of Leinster than to take any steps against the foreign enemy. During this period fresh hordes of invaders of a different nation from the former arrived in the rivers Boyne and Liffey.* The rapid progress of these new comers, who quickly overran the county of Dublin with fire and sword, alarmed Turgesius, and collecting his forces from all quarters, he re-

* The invaders of Ireland in the ninth century consisted of a mixed crew of Danes, Frisians, Norwegians, Swedes and Livonians. The ancient Irish distinguished them into two septs from the colour of their hair, one being called *Fion-Gail*, or *Fin-Gal*, the White Strangers, and the other *Dubh-Gail*, the Black Strangers. Fingal is supposed to have been settled by the former, and Donegal by the latter.

solved to turn his arms against them. A battle ensued, in which Turgesius proved victorious, and thus acquired additional strength for rivetting his yoke on the neck of the unfortunate natives. This he now undertook to accomplish in the most systematic manner, commencing by the erection of fortifications for the security of his conquests. The ruins of many of these remain to the present, and still retain the names of Danish Rathes or Mounts. The natives were at length aroused from the fatal apathy which had seized them, by these undoubted symptoms of the enemy's resolution to make a permanent settlement in Ireland, and for some time their valorous efforts were crowned with success. Melachlin or Malachy, King of Meath, routed their main body with the loss of seven hundred men and one of their principal generals; while another victory crowned the arms of the united forces of Munster and Leinster, in which Tomair, the Prince Royal of Denmark, with twelve hundred of his troops, is said to have perished. The prevalence of faction, however, still prevented that union which was absolutely necessary for the complete deliverance of the country; and the arrival of speedy reinforcements not only re-established, but augmented the strength of Turgesius, who, having taken the city of Dublin by storm, A. D. 838, built a castle in it, from whence he spread his ravages through all the surrounding country.

Niall III. having at length terminated his disputes

with the province of Leinster, commenced operations against the common enemy, with a vigour that afforded sanguine hopes of final success. Having overthrown the barbarians in a pitched battle, in Tirconnell, he marched against their head-quarters at Armagh. Another army which opposed his advance was defeated with great slaughter, and the victorious Niall pursued the fugitives towards their fortifications on the banks of the river Callain, which was at this time greatly swollen by incessant rains. As this circumstance interrupted the advance of the Irish army to Armagh, Niall ordered one of his warriors to attempt the ford on horseback; but he was quickly overwhelmed by the impetuosity of the torrent. The generous and intrepid monarch calling on his guard in vain, to make some effort for the preservation of their perishing comrade, dashed forward himself to the brink of the river, where the ground being undermined by the violence of the flood, sank beneath the feet of his horse, and the heroic king being precipitated into the river, shared the fate of the hapless object of his commiseration.*

* Mr. Stuart, in his very valuable and interesting History of Armagh, states that many curious vestiges of this battle have been found in that neighbourhood. Visible traces of Niall's tumulus are yet to be discovered on the margin of the river. In the year 1798 four brazen trumpets of a gold colour were found in boggy land near Loughnashade, one of which is in the possession of Mr. Pooler of that place, a second was presented to Lieut. Gen. A. Campbell, and a third to Col. Hall of

After the death of Niall, which occurred in the year 846, Malachy, King of Meath, was elected Monarch of Ireland; while on the other hand Turgesius is said to have usurped the sovereignty, and been proclaimed King of Ireland by his own countrymen. To support his assumed authority he received a vast augmentation of forces from the North of Europe, with which he commenced a course of operations that evinced his firm determination to overturn the religion, laws, and liberties of the Irish, by methods the most revolting to humanity. In every direction the country was desolated by fire and sword, and the unfortunate inhabitants were compelled to fly from instant death into their woods and fastnesses, where thousands of them perished with cold and famine. Others, wearied with being the victims not only of their barbarous invaders, but of

Armagh. Human skulls and bones were met near the trumpets, in a state of high preservation, which is attributable to the anti-septic quality of the bog. One of these skulls, in the possession of Doctor Simpson, was found to be separable into distinct laminas, exceedingly thin, remarkably smooth, and retaining, like parchment, the impression of ink made with a pen. Some of the townlands in this neighbourhood are supposed to have derived their names from this great battle; as *Bally-rae*, "Battle's-town," *Drumcoote*, or *Druimcode*, "the Ridge of Victory." A chain of fortifications seem to have extended through the whole district, of which *Dunnathan* (now called Navan), signifying "the Noble Fortress," appears to have had the pre-eminence. — *Stuart's Armagh, Appendix, No. 11.*

their own factious lords, submitted in despair to the iron yoke of the foreigner, who now contrived by every art to extinguish the last spark of independence in their breasts. He placed every cantred of land under the jurisdiction of one of his chieftains, and over every seigniory he appointed a captain of war. Inferior officers presided over the villages, and his soldiers were masters of every house in which they were quartered. If the unhappy owners presumed to conceal their cattle, or secrete any food from these voracious monsters, they were fettered and imprisoned; nor were they allowed the right of property in their wives and children, which has been held sacred by the most savage nations. All were at the mercy of their cruel and libidinous oppressors. And with such hellish brutality did the monster seek to outrage those feelings to which Irishmen were ever most alive, that he proceeded to enact a law, by which every bride was compelled to lie the first night after her marriage with the captain of the district in which she lived, unless he chose to accept a certain sum of money in lieu of her compliance. Besides these domestic calamities, the unhappy natives were subjected to others of a little less aggravated nature. Every master of a family was obliged to pay annually into the tyrant's treasury an ounce of gold (a great sum at that period); in failure of which his nose was publicly cut off; hence this tax was denominated the nose-rent. The natives of every rank were prohibited from wearing any clothes

wearing any clothes but what their despotic masters prescribed ; they were forbidden to make any public entertainments, or to use hospitality among each other—to exercise themselves in any feats of activity, or in martial sports—to enter any school, monastery, or church ; or to employ any clergyman, lawyer, bard, or artist of any kind. Every church or monastery that was not devoted to the flames, was placed at the disposal of the pagan priests, who accompanied this savage army, and these edifices now resounded with the praises of Odin, Thor, and Friga. In fine, every quarter of the island in which the authority of Turgesius predominated, presented scenes of carnage and desolation of so dreadful a description, that we would be induced to consider the relations of our native writers much exaggerated, were they not fully confirmed by the sufferings of the English, about the same period, under the tyranny of the Danes in that country.

During this scene of horror, the rage of the conqueror was particularly directed against every seminary and monument of learning. Such of the clergy as escaped the sword fled to foreign countries, or sought refuge in woods and subterraneous caves, where they lurked about for years, a prey to every misery and privation, till death relieved them from their sufferings. This excess of tyranny, at length, aroused the Irish chieftains to a sense of their folly in weakening their strength by domestic feuds, while their country was gradually sinking

under the cruel yoke of a foreign despot. An assembly was convened at Armagh in the year 849, at which the Monarch Malachy, the King of Ulster, and other chieftains, resolved to commence vigorous measures against the common enemy, and some success attended their efforts in Meath, and at Ardbraccan; but the Danes having received reinforcements in the following year, marched once more against Armagh, which they took by storm. The power of Turgesius seemed now more firmly fixed than ever, and Malachy, whom he only acknowledged as King of Meath, was forced to become his tributary and vassal.

But what Malachy was unable to effect by force of arms, he accomplished by an artifice, which has been depicted by our annalists in a manner that developes, in the most hideous colours, the character of Turgesius; and will cause the latest posterity to rejoice at the justly deserved punishment of this brutal tyrant. The circumstances of his fall, when stripped of those embellishments with which they have been enveloped, appear as follow:—Turgesius, after his late success, had fixed his residence in the neighbourhood of Malachy, whom he condescended to honor with frequent visits. Inflamed with a licentious passion for the daughter of the King, a princess of great beauty and accomplishments, he demanded her as a concubine. The unhappy sovereign, dissembling the indignation which he felt, not only appeared to be honored by the

proposal; but, as if anxious to gratify the passions of the tyrant to their fullest extent, he added, that she should repair to his residence privately, on a certain night, accompanied by fifteen of the most beautiful ladies of his court, which would probably make her less reluctant to leave her father's palace. Malachy now concerted a plan, which, if it failed, could add very little to the misery of his condition; but if it proved successful, would rid his country of the greatest scourge with which it had ever been oppressed. He communicated his scheme to fifteen young men of distinguished valor, on whom he could depend. On the appointed night they attended the princess, attired as young ladies, each armed with a short sword under his robe. Malachy gave them directions how to act, assuring them that he would follow with his guard at a short distance, to second their efforts. Turgesius, in the mean time, had apprised fifteen of his chosen chieftains of his intrigue with the princess of Meath, and proposed to share with them the spoil of youth and beauty by which she was to be accompanied. They waited with impatience the arrival of the princess and her retinue, which being at length announced, they advanced with eagerness, and unarmed, to the banquetting room to receive them. The Irish youths, faithful to their instructions, seized the opportune moment, and drawing their swords put every one of the chieftains to death, except the tyrant himself, whom they bound with cords which they had

brought for that purpose. A signal being then given from the window, Malachy broke into the fort, sword in hand, and after putting the whole garrison to death, Turgesius was led away loaded with irons, and thrown into prison. Intelligence of this happy event now spread with rapidity through the island, and every where the natives rose upon their cruel oppressors with a fury that proved irresistible.— Their principal nobility, with thousands of the soldiers, were slaughtered without mercy; their towns and forts were stormed and demolished; and the tyrant himself was drawn in chains to Lough Ainnin, in which he was drowned in the presence of a multitude of rejoicing spectators. Many of the Danes escaped to their ships, and the remnant, being disarmed, were received to mercy by the Irish princes.

After this happy revolution, Malachy assumed the reins of government, and assembled a convention, at which the provincial kings and other chieftains were restored to their respective jurisdictions; and there was some reason to hope, that the Irish would learn wisdom from past experience, by studying the arts of peace at home, extending their foreign commerce, and securing their country by all practicable means against future invasions. But they soon evinced the same unfortunate propensity to civil dissensions; while their sea-ports, the great outworks of the nation, were neglected, or entrusted to the guardianship of the remnant of their vanquished enemies. This apathy inspired the Norwegians with

hopes, that they would again obtain a settlement in an island with whose riches and fertility they had become so well acquainted; but despairing of effecting their object by violence, they proposed a peaceable system of traffic, which should prove mutually advantageous. The Irish having, during their former residence among them, acquired some relish for foreign luxuries, were not disinclined to this proposal; and with an infatuation which cannot be accounted for, when we consider what they so recently suffered, they permitted a fresh Norwegian colony, under Amelanus, Sitricus, and Ivorus, three of their best generals, to occupy the important cities of Dublin, Waterford, and Limerick, with other maritime places. They gradually acquired strength by fresh reinforcements, and the reign of Hugh VI. which commenced in 863, proved a scene of sanguinary warfare; but it appears to have terminated in a complete overthrow of the foreigners, for during the long reign of his successor, Flan, we read only of civil dissensions among the native princes. Flan commenced his career by ravaging Munster, of which the celebrated Cormac Mac-Cuillenan was then King, as well as Archbishop of Cashel. A term of tranquillity ensued, in which many churches and abbies were re-built, and the schools of learning again opened. This has been chiefly attributed to the piety and abilities of Cormac; but whatever may have been the cause of this happy change, it was of short duration, for

Cormac was forced, by the furious ambition of Flaherty, the Abbot of Inniscathy, into imprudent hostilities with the Monarch Flan, and Carol, King of Leinster, in which he lost his life.*

Flan, soon after this event, terminated a reign of thirty-seven years by a natural death. The Danes, encouraged by the recent dissensions, again invaded the country under Sitricus, took the city of Dublin by storm, and slew Niall the Fourth in battle in the year 919. To him succeeded Donogh II. a man wholly unequal to the important duties which the present crisis required. Ceallachan, the warlike King of Munster, was, at this period, engaged in bravely defending his territories against the Danes, whom, with the assistance of the famous corps of Dalgais, under Cineidi or Kennedy, he is said to have defeated in fourteen pitched battles. Unable any longer to cope with the Munster King in the field, the crafty Sitricus sought to ruin him by a stratagem, the circumstances of which are minutely detailed by most of our annalists. He knew that Ceallachan was deeply in love with his sister Bevina, who, with the wife of Sitricus, had once been his prisoner in Waterford; and he now offered her in marriage to the Sovereign of Munster, as a pledge of

* Cormac left valuable legacies to the abbies and religious houses at Ardfinnan, Lismore, Cashel, Emly, Glendaloch, Kildare, Inniscathy, Mountgarret, and Ardmagh. The Royal Psalter, which preserved, he said, the ancient records of his native country, he left to Cashel, where he built the cathedral.

his perpetual friendship and alliance. Kennedy, in vain, represented that a snare was laid for his master, who resolved to proceed to Dublin under a guard of eighty chosen warriors, while his army was ordered to be in readiness to rescue him, if he should discover any appearance of treachery.

Sitricus, at this time, kept his court in Dublin, whither Ceallachan repaired; but on his arrival at Kilmainham, he was suddenly surrounded by an overwhelming armed force, headed by the Danish prince; and after a desperate conflict, in which nearly all his retinue perished, the King of Munster and Dunchan, the son of Kennedy, were made prisoners. The perfidious Sitricus immediately transmitted the victims of his treachery to Armagh, where he possessed a considerable force. The brave and prudent Kennedy, who had been appointed Regent of Munster during the absence of the King, took immediate steps for the deliverance of his sovereign; and while he despatched a fleet to Ulster, under Failbhe Fion, Prince of Desmond, he ordered Donogh Mac Ceeffe, chieftain of Fermoy, to march with a considerable force of the Dalgais, and other provincial troops, towards Armagh, through Connaught. Sitricus, on hearing of the advance of the Momonian army, left a strong garrison in Armagh, and marched with his main force to Dundalk, where his fleet lay, and hurrying Ceallachan and Dunchan on board a ship, bound them to the mast. In the mean time the Momonians took Armagh by storm, put the whole garri-

son to the sword, and then marched for Dundalk. Alarmed at this intelligence, Sitricus determined to set sail with his captives ; but before he could accomplish his intention, his ships were furiously assailed by the Munster fleet under Failbhe Fion. After a desperate conflict, King Cellachan was liberated ; but his freedom was dearly purchased by the death of the brave admiral. Fiongall, his successor, finding himself hardly pressed by the enemy, is said to have rushed impetuously forward, seized Sitricus in his arms, and jumped with him into the sea, where they both perished. Tor and Magnus, two brothers of Sitricus, met a similar fate, and the Danish fleet was totally annihilated.

Ceallachan now led his victorious troops back to Munster, where he took signal vengeance on the enemy who still remained in that province, and terminated his reign in tranquillity. His successor was assassinated after a short reign of two years ; upon which Mahon, the son of Kennedy, was called to the crown of Munster, who conferred the command of the Momonian army on his brother, the celebrated Brian Boiromhe. His reign was a continual struggle with the foreign enemy, who, notwithstanding their losses, were still enabled by powerful reinforcements to maintain a footing in the country. During these important transactions, the Monarch Donogh is said, not only to have led a life of inglorious ease, but to have basely connived at the treachery of Sitricus. In the year 944 he was succeeded by

Congall II. a prince of a very different character, who routed the Danes at the battle of Mune-Bregan, with the loss of seven thousand men. He perished, after a reign of twelve years, near Armagh, while asserting the cause of his country against the invaders and the troops of Leinster, who had formed an unnatural alliance with them. The Danes, we are told, embraced Christianity about this period; but this change of religion does not appear to have inspired them with sentiments of greater justice and humanity towards a country, to which they had for so long a period been the authors of such cruel calamities.

Mahon, the warlike King of Munster, having been treacherously murdered, the celebrated Brian Boiromhe ascended the throne of that province, about the middle of the tenth century. He commenced his vigorous reign by punishing the murderers of his brother, and then turned his arms against the Danes and their Irish allies, the chieftains of the Deisies and Oneachach; and after defeating them with great slaughter, he took and destroyed the city of Waterford. His fame being now established all over the island, he demanded that the southern half of it, called Leath-Modha, should swear allegiance to him, and pay him tribute; but the Irish and Danes of Leinster uniting in resisting this claim, Brian marched into that province, defeated their united army with the loss of five thousand men, pursued them to Dublin, and compelled them to submit. The King of Ulster gained some important successes at the same

time ; but the want of union still prevented these victories from leading to any decisive results ; and the Supreme Monarch, Donald IV. after an unimportant reign of twenty-four years, retired to a convent at Armagh. He was succeeded by Malachy II. A.D. 980.

The new Monarch, at first, manifested symptoms of a vigorous and heroic character. This opinion was confirmed by his victory gained over the Danes at Tara, and the subsequent siege of Dublin, which he carried by assault, in conjunction with the King of Ulster, and liberated the Sovereign of Leinster, who had been for a long period in a state of confinement in that city. By this event the enemy were forced to abandon a great portion of their conquests, and to submit to the payment of a large tribute.— But they only observed the treaty till they had recruited their strength ; when fresh rencounters took place, in one of which Malachy is said to have defeated two of their champions in single combat.— These promising beginnings were quickly beclouded by the Monarch's propensity to a life of pleasure, which excited such a general disgust throughout the island, that the people began to entertain serious designs of deposing him, and elevating the heroic King of Munster to the supreme monarchy, though he was of the Heberian line. On this important subject the leading men of Munster and Connaught deliberated ; and as it appeared to them, that Brian alone was equal to the task of freeing the country from its fo-

reign oppressors, they sent ambassadors of distinguished rank to Malachy, to request with mildness, and yet with firmness, that he would resign the crown of Ireland to Brian, who knew so well how to defend it with honor to himself and happiness to his people. These proposals being rejected with indignation, Brian determined to support his claims on the sovereignty by a formidable army, and at the head of his veteran Dalgais he marched towards Tara, the royal residence, his advance being preceded by a herald, who demanded the resignation of the monarchy.

Malachy finding himself wholly unprepared for resistance, appealed to the generosity of his adversary, who, in strict accordance with the spirit of chivalry, granted him a month to collect his forces and accept his challenge. In the meantime, the Monarch despatched messengers to the Kings of Ulster and Connaught, and all the vassal princes of Leath-Conn, the northern half of the island, to implore their assistance in defence of a sovereign, whose ancestors had filled the throne of Ireland for many ages. The general reply of his vassals and allies was filled with reproaches, and concluded by saying, that as he was unable to decide the dispute by force of arms, nothing remained for him but to submit to the terms of the King of Munster. Finding himself thus completely forsaken, Malachy was forced to yield to this advice; and repairing with twelve hundred horsemen to the camp of Tara, he resigned his

crown to Brian, declaring, at the same time, that it was absolute necessity, and not want of courage, that had forced him to this degrading act. Brian was immediately proclaimed Supreme Monarch of Ireland, A. D. 1002, and this extraordinary revolution was effected without shedding a drop of blood. The new sovereign permitted Malachy to retain his ancient inheritance, the kingdom of Meath, and made him many valuable presents. Brian was in his seventy-sixth year when he ascended the Irish throne, yet he evinced all the fire and activity of youth; and having subjugated, by his valour, all his foreign and domestic enemies, he now proceeded with vigour to the more arduous attempt of healing those wounds, which his country had suffered from its long intestine divisions, and the miseries attendant on the incessant incursions of the northern barbarians for more than two centuries. After making all due allowance for the exaggerated praises which our chronicles have lavished on this distinguished Monarch, all his actions prove him to have been a sagacious, munificent, and valiant prince, in whose short reign of twelve years, Ireland advanced more in the arts of peace and civilization, than during many preceding centuries. Brian commenced the great work of melioration by confirming the petty princes and chieftains in all their ancient privileges, and thus attaching them to the interests of his government. His next object was to repair the injuries which religion had suffered in the Danish war. The clergy were

restored to their benefices, and numerous churches were built or re-erected—the exiled members of the colleges were recalled, and again placed in their ancient seminaries, while many new establishments of this nature were founded, to promote the more general diffusion of useful knowledge. He is represented to have been equally assiduous in promoting happiness and civilization amongst the inferior classes of his subjects: upon these he bestowed whatever he had recovered from the Danes; and while, with prudent foresight, he erected many castles and forts, to secure his people against the future depredations of the foreign enemy, he facilitated communication between the different parts of the kingdom, by forming new roads, and erecting bridges. He was preparing to crown all his other efforts for the prosperity and happiness of his country, by building a formidable navy to protect its coasts from future insults, when an unexpected event called him once more into the field of battle, where he terminated his long and useful life by an heroic death.

Maolmordha Mac Murroch, King of Leinster, inflamed to vengeance by an insult which he supposed he had received from Mortogh, the son of Brian, while on a visit at the Monarch's court, sought to wipe off the disgrace by plunging his native land again into all the horrors of a civil war. Rejecting every attempt to appease his resentment, he formed an alliance with the Danes, who still possessed the principal sea-ports, and despatched mes-

sengers to the King of Denmark, imploring his aid against the Monarch, whom he represented as a cruel and arbitrary tyrant. The Danish King eagerly accepted the proposal, and despatched twelve thousand men to his assistance, who landed safely in the port of Dublin. Encouraged by these succours, Maolmordha commenced hostilities by ravaging the territories of the King of Meath. He then declared war against Brian, and challenged him to a battle at Clontarf, within two miles of Dublin. The Monarch, notwithstanding his advanced age, was not slow to accept the challenge. All the troops of Munster and Connaught were called out, and they entered with eagerness on a service in which the welfare of their country was so deeply interested. Many volunteers offered their assistance upon this occasion, amongst whom was the deposed Monarch Malachy, who, as it afterwards appeared, was stimulated by other motives than those of patriotism.

The command of the Irish army was conferred on Mortogh, the eldest son of Brian, who, from his thirteenth year, had fought in every battle by the side of his father. Yet the aged Monarch could not be restrained from accompanying his forces: and when they arrived in presence of the army of Leinster and the Danes in the plains of Clontarf, he assisted in placing the troops in array. Before the commencement of this memorable battle, which took place on the 23d of April, 1014, Brian was, with difficulty, persuaded to retire to his tent. The

trumpets on both sides had no sooner given the signal for the charge, than Malachy withdrew his forces, and remained a quiet spectator of the engagement. Undismayed by this act of treachery, Mortogh and the other leaders of the Irish army, advanced to the attack with their accustomed valor. For some time the Danes firmly withstood the shock, and returned the charge with vigor. The Irish, on their part, remained immoveable, and their ranks were not penetrated in a single instance. Renewed attacks on both sides were attended with similar results; so that from dawn of day till night approached, victory hovered in suspense over the hostile standards. But the persevering bravery of the Irish army at length prevailed; the Danish lines were broken, and a dreadful carnage ensued, in which, besides eight thousand officers and soldiers, were included two sons of the King of Denmark, and the King of Leinster, who had been the author of the war. The victory was, however, dearly purchased by the Irish army, not only by the loss of more than four thousand of their bravest troops, but by the death of their venerable and patriotic Monarch and his heroic son Mortogh. The latter did not fall in the heat of battle, but was treacherously slain by one of the Danish princes who lay wounded on the field, and implored his assistance, which he was about to render, when the insidious Dane stabbed him to the heart. About the same moment the aged Monarch fell by the hands of a straggling body

of the enemy, who, in their flight, perceiving the King's tent unguarded, entered it, and terminated the life of the hero ; but not till he had killed one, and wounded another of his assailants. His remains, with those of his son Mortogh, Conary, his nephew, and Methlin, Prince of the Deisies, were interred at Armagh with great funeral pomp.

This victory crushed the power of the Danes in Ireland. It was, however, gained at too high a price ; for with the death of Brian Boiromhe terminated the glory of the Irish Monarchy. His eldest son Teig is said to have lost his life through the machinations of his younger brother Donogh, who assumed the command of the Munster forces, and led them into their own country, after encountering much opposition from the King of Ossory, and the Eugenian Princes, who now determined to dispute his succession to the crown of Munster. In the mean time the states of the kingdom restored Malachy to the supreme sovereignty, notwithstanding his treachery at the battle of Clontarf ; a step which could only be justified by their anxiety to prevent any further intrusion of the provincial kings. Malachy commenced his new reign by destroying Dublin, and putting all the Danish inhabitants to the sword. He then devastated a great part of Leinster and Ulster, for which no motive has been assigned except revenge, because the inhabitants had not armed in his defence, when he was obliged to relinquish the throne. The intestine feuds which had been restrained by the valor

and prudence of Brian Boiromhe, now broke out afresh, and the remainder of Malachy's reign was a continued scene of civil dissension; for the conflicting interests of the various provinces, the mutual recollection of past injuries, and the ambition of the different chiefs, rendered these petty states as inimical to each other, as if there existed among them no common tie of friendship, interest, or nationality.

Donogh III. the son of Brian, had, after the battle of Clontarf, repaired to Germany, and commanded a chosen corps of the Dalgais in the service of the Emperor. After this he assumed the sovereignty of Munster; and upon the death of Malachy, which happened A. D. 1022, he again laid claim to the throne of Ireland, and his authority was acknowledged at first by the greater part of the kingdom. But he found a powerful opponent in Turlogh, the son of his brother Teig, who had been assassinated; and the rights of this young prince were maintained by the King of Leinster at the head of a strong party. Fresh contentions followed, and for the space of nearly forty years the liberties, the lives, and properties of the unfortunate people of Ireland were sacrificed to the ambition or vengeance of the opposing factions, until Donogh was obliged to fly from his country a second time, and take refuge at Rome, where he took the habit of a monk, and finished his days in the Abbey of St. Stephen. Some historians have asserted, that Donogh, upon this occasion, laid the crown of Ireland at the feet of

his Holiness, and that upon this donation Pope Adrian founded his subsequent grant of the kingdom to Henry II. of England.

After the flight of Donogh, Turlogh retained undisturbed possession of the sovereignty, and endeavoured, as far as the distracted and impoverished state of his country would permit, to govern according to the splendid example of his grandfather Brian. Though his authority had not been acknowledged in the usual form by the States, yet the wisdom and justice which marked his conduct secured their submission. The fame of this prince has received ample testimony from foreign writers; for in a collection of letters of this age published by Archbishop Usher, we find Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury, attributing his elevation to the interposition of Providence in favor of the Irish people.

But the unhappy nature of the government rendered such intervals of prosperity as transient as the momentary sunshine, which sometimes intervenes between the furious blasts of the hurricane. The death of Turlogh in 1094, proved the signal for fresh political storms; and two competitors for the vacant throne appeared in Mortogh O'Brian, son of the late monarch, and Donald O'Lochlin, of the old Heremonian line, who was head of the Hy-Niall family. The former was acknowledged by the southern, and the latter by the northern half of the kingdom; and for twenty years the country was devastated by their fierce contentions, during which Mag-

nus, King of Norway, appeared on the coast of Ulster with a numerous fleet; but the first body of his forces which disembarked being cut to pieces by the Irish, the Norwegians abandoned the attempt.

Towards the close of this divided monarchy, the proceedings of Turlogh, the young King of Connaught, began to excite the apprehensions of both parties. Mortogh did not long maintain the contest with this new enemy, but relinquishing the cares of a troublesome government, he took the habit of a monk at Ardmagh; and the death of Donald, his rival, took place in two years after. Turlogh II. now assumed the title of Supreme Monarch, A. D. 1121. His reign, which lasted thirty-five years, was a scene of constant warfare, every one of the provinces feeling, in their turn, the weight of his power and resentment. But he at length met a formidable rival in the person of Mortogh O'Lochlin, prince of the northern sept of Hy-Niall, who was aided by the remnant of the Ostmen, and the naval power of Scotland. Against their united force Turlogh fought several battles with various success, till his death delivered up to his antagonist the greater part of the kingdom. Roderick, the son of the late Monarch, resolved, however, to dispute his newly-acquired authority; and after ravaging his own territory of Tyrone, he made successful incursions both into Munster and Leinster. The vigor of Mortogh at length compelled Roderick to submission, and put him in possession of a throne, which his impetuosity

and tyranny did not allow him long to retain; for he was slain in battle with the King of Orgial, who attacked him on account of his cruel and treacherous conduct to one of the northern princes.

Roderick O'Connor, the King of Connaught, now obtained the undisputed sovereignty of the island; and he, who was destined to be the last of its native princes, resolved to adopt all those means which had been so long neglected, for conferring dignity and permanence on his government. The states of the kingdom were assembled at Dublin, in 1166, when his election and inauguration took place, with all those ancient solemnities which had fallen into disuse since the time of Brian Boiromhe. Subsequent events proved that the unanimity which prevailed upon this occasion was more specious than real.—Soon after this ceremony, Roderick made a progress round the island, and took hostages from several of the chieftains whom he suspected; but this did not prevent frequent revolts, which were punished with severity. In the second year of his reign he held a general assembly of the states at Athboy, in the county of Meath, which is represented to have been extremely splendid, as, besides the trains of all the provincial kings, princes, and prelates, thirteen thousand horsemen were numbered in the assemblage.

But this proved the last display of the magnificence of the Irish monarchs; events quickly following, which though at first of apparently small importance, led eventually to the overthrow of the

native government of Ireland, and rendered her, to the present, an appendage to the British crown.—For this great change in the relative situation of our island, the weakness of the monarchy, the turbulence of factions, and the ravages of foreign enemies had for centuries been paving the way. The collision of interests occasioned by the elective nature of the supreme government, and the perpetual broils engendered by the partition of the country amongst petty chieftains, left Ireland an easy prey to any adventurer who had force and valour to undertake its conquest. That England had not before made the attempt, may be attributed to her own weakness while under the Heptarchy; but a period had now arrived, which seemed most favorable to the effort. The civil distractions which were caused in that country by the Norman conquest had subsided, and Henry II. held the entire sovereignty by an undisputed title. During the two or three preceding centuries, the English, by their increasing intercourse with the natives of this country, became more acquainted with the value of the island, and their cupidity to obtain possession of it was proportionably increased. The Irish chieftains who frequently engaged in the contests in Wales, and those who accompanied the sons of Harold into England in their futile attempt to overthrow the government of William the Conqueror, encouraged these ambitious desires by the splendid accounts which they gave of their native country, and the

prosperity enjoyed by its inhabitants. The successful progress which the Danes and other northern invaders had formerly made in Ireland, and the more recent attempts of the King of Norway for its subjugation, might also have excited the fears of Henry, lest the Ostmen, who still maintained themselves in the maritime places, should erect the island into a Norwegian kingdom; which, together with the Isle of Man and the other dominions of Magnus, full of shipping and good seamen, might render the country a most dangerous neighbour to his dominions.

Whatever may have been the real motives which excited the English Monarch upon this occasion, his courtiers were not slow in offering pretexts to justify the attempt. By some it was affirmed, that the Irish were his natural subjects, because they had originally possessed themselves of the country by permission of Gurguntius, a British king; that several of the Saxon princes had made conquests in Ireland, which he, their successor, was bound in honor to recover and maintain. It was further urged, that Englishmen had frequently been sold as slaves in this island, (a practice then common in both countries), and that this barbarity gave him full right to invade and subdue it. But the politic Henry perceived the flimsy nature of these pretexts, and he resolved to seek his right to the conquest from an authority which had then arrived at a formidable height in Europe. The papal power had

zealously patronized all the ambitious proceedings of the Norman princes, and Henry resolved to propitiate its sanction to his proposed enterprize by sending to Rome, in 1156, his chaplain, John Salisbury, who represented to Adrian, the reigning pontiff, the dreadful state of corruption both in religion and morals into which the inhabitants of Ireland were sunk; and that his master was ready to devote himself to the pious design of erecting the kingdom of God in that unhappy country. That, to enable him to accomplish this, he implored the benediction of his Holiness, and requested his authority to enter into Ireland for the purpose of reducing the disobedient and corrupt, eradicating all sin and wickedness, instructing the ignorant, and spreading the blessed influence of the gospel in all its purity. As an acknowledgment for the sanction of his Holiness, Henry promised to pay a yearly tribute to St. Peter from the country which he was anxious to reduce to the obedience of the Holy See.

Adrian was particularly pleased with this application, as, according to the Annals of the Four Masters and other authorities, Ireland had but lately appeared disposed to acknowledge the supremacy of Rome, her own prelates having exercised all ecclesiastical authority till the year 1152, when Cardinal Paparon arrived in Ireland with a Legantine commission from Pope Eugene III. A synod was assembled by him at Drogheda, at which three thousand ecclesiastics are said to have been present,

when the celebration of Easter was adjusted according to the Romish decisions, and the celibacy of the clergy was enforced. Palls were, on this occasion, solemnly conferred on the Archbishops of Armagh, Dublin, Cashel, and Tuam. The present application gave Pope Adrian a favorable opportunity of improving the correspondence which his predecessor had opened with the Church of Ireland, and, at the same time, of conciliating the friendship of the English Monarch. A Bull was accordingly framed, in which Henry was highly complimented for his pious wishes to enlarge the borders of the Church, to teach the truth of the Christian faith to the ignorant and rude, and to exterminate the roots of vice from the field of the Lord. Then, after asserting that Ireland and all the islands on which Christ the Sun of Righteousness had shone, belonged of right to the jurisdiction of St. Peter and of the Holy Roman Church, his Holiness declared it to be good and acceptable that Henry should enter into the island of Ireland, for extending the borders of the Church, restraining the progress of vice, for the correction of manners, the planting of virtue, and the increase of religion. And his Holiness further exhorted the people of that land to receive him honorably, and reverence him as their lord; the rights of their churches still remaining sacred and inviolable; and saving to St. Peter the annual pension of one penny from every house. The ring accompanied this Bull, as the token of Henry's investiture as the rightful sovereign of Ireland.

Henry, thus authorized, would probably have immediately proceeded to the execution of his designs, had he not been retarded by the unsettled state of his affairs in France, the inquietude of Wales, and his painful contest with Thomas a Becket. But events occurred in Ireland which facilitated the undertaking, and led to its accomplishment in a way which could not have been anticipated.

For a long period the authority of the Irish Monarch had been little more than titular, and the provincial chieftains were rather to be considered as his allies than his subjects. The family of O'Neill exercised an hereditary jurisdiction over the greater part of Ulster. Munster was divided between the descendants of the celebrated Brian Boiromhe and the warlike sept of the Mac-Arthys. In Connaught the O'Connors were the acknowledged sovereigns of the eastern territory, while Tiernan O'Ruarc, Prince of Breffney, governed in Leitrim and the adjacent districts. Another branch of the O'Neills ruled Meath; and in Leinster, Dermot Mac-Murchard, under the title of King, had under his authority the principalities of Ossory and Decies, with the remnant of the Ostmen still settled in Dublin and Waterford. Dermot is represented as a man whose great bodily strength and boisterous valour had rendered him a great favorite with the inferior classes of his subjects, while his profuse liberality to the Church secured the attachment of the clergy. But his pride and tyranny rendered him odious to the petty chief-

tains. In the contention for the crown which took place in 1154, between Turlogh O'Connor and Mortogh O'Loghlin of the Hy-Niall family, Dermot attached himself to the interests of the latter, and the Irish annalists agree that this was the real cause of his subsequent expulsion from his dominions.—Cambrensis, on the other hand, affirms the abduction of Dervorghal, the wife of O'Ruarc, Prince of Breffney, to have been the immediate cause of that event. The Irish historians relate that this transaction occurred full sixteen years before the first landing of the English, and the particulars are thus recorded.

Dermot having, under some pretext, invaded the territory of O'Ruarc, surprized and defeated that chieftain, and seized the opportunity of his flight to gratify an unlawful passion which he had long entertained for his wife, whom he carried off triumphantly into his own province. O'Ruarc, however, with the aid of the reigning Monarch Turlogh, was not only speedily reinstated in his dominions, but his wife was rescued from her paramour; and Dermot might have then been punished with more severity for his crime, had not the death of Turlogh occurred soon after. His successor, Mortogh, being the friend and patron of the King of Leinster, protected him from the vengeance of his enemies till his fall at the battle of Litterluin left Roderick O'Connor the undisputed possession of the throne. The new Monarch, attended by O'Ruarc, was not slow

in taking vengeance upon Dermod, and after over-running his territories with a formidable army, while a great part of his tributaries united with the invaders, Dermod was deposed, and another of his family, who swore fidelity to the Monarch, was invested with the government.

The King of Leinster, now become an exile, resolved to solicit that aid from a foreign power, which his crimes forbade him to expect from any quarter of his native country. He accordingly repaired to Bristol, accompanied by about sixty of his friends; and representing himself as an injured prince who had been treacherously abandoned by his vassals, and then expelled from his dominions by an iniquitous confederacy, he was generally regarded with respect and compassion, especially by the clergy, by whom he was considered as one of their most distinguished benefactors. Henry being at this time in Aquitaine, Dermod proceeded thither, and falling at the feet of the English Monarch, he made an affecting appeal to his magnanimity and generosity, declaring that if he should be so fortunate as to obtain his powerful assistance, he would acknowledge him as his liege lord, and hold his dominions, when restored to him, in vassalage to Henry and his heirs. This application afforded to Henry a favorable pretext for the accomplishment of his long meditated design; but the perplexed state of his affairs at this juncture, did not permit him openly to espouse the cause of the Irish Chieftain. He

treated Dermod, however, with the greatest respect and commiseration, accepted his tender of allegiance, and dismissed him with a letter of credence to all his subjects, declaring that he had received the King of Leinster into the bosom of his grace and benevolence, and granting his free licence and royal favour to any of his subjects, who might be disposed to aid him in the recovery of his territory.

Though Dermod published Henry's letter immediately after his arrival at Bristol, and held out the most flattering promises to all who should engage in his quarrel, he waited a considerable time before he could meet with any offer of assistance, so hopeless or unimportant did the undertaking appear. He addressed himself at length to Richard, Earl of Strigul or Chepstow, surnamed Strongbow; a young nobleman of great military genius, and considerable importance in Wales; but who, having wasted his fortune, and for some cause lost the royal favour, now lived in a kind of gloomy retirement. Strongbow hesitated, at first, to engage in an undertaking where the difficulties were so numerous, and the success so uncertain. Allured at length by the tempting promise of Dermod, that he would give him his daughter Eva in marriage, and make him heir to his kingdom, he agreed to assist the exiled Prince, with a considerable force, in the ensuing spring, provided he could obtain the King's particular licence and authority.

Having succeeded in this negociation, Dermod re-

solved to return privately to Ireland, to prepare for the reception of his new ally. On his journey he was treated with much kindness by the Bishop of St. David's, who used great exertions to recommend his cause to the surrounding gentry; and he so far succeeded, that Robert Fitz-Stephen, constable of the castle of Cardigan, a distinguished warrior, with his maternal brother, Maurice Fitzgerald, a lord of great worth and valour, consented to take a part in the Irish expedition, on condition that the King of Leinster should cede to them the entire dominion of the town of Wexford, with a large adjoining territory, after he, by their assistance, should have recovered his rights. Having made these arrangements, and left Maurice Regan as his agent in Wales, to stimulate the exertions of his confederate, Dermod returned to Ireland, and lay concealed for some time in the monastery of Ferns. But his partizans were not inactive in collecting his adherents, and he soon found himself at the head of such a force as enabled him to take possession of the territory of Hy-Kinselagh. The monarch Roderick instantly marched into that district, and drove Dermod before him into the woods, where for some time he made a shew of resistance; but sensible of his present weakness, and the necessity of temporising, the Leinster chieftain offered to renounce all claims to the government of his former dominions, and to give hostages for his obedience, only requesting, that in compassion to his misfortunes, he might be permitted to hold ten cantreds of

land, in absolute dependence upon the monarch. Roderick, intent on objects which he conceived to be of higher importance, fell into the snare, and agreed to the terms proposed by his insidious adversary.

But Dermod resolved to keep his promises only as long as necessity required him, and the arrival of a portion of his British auxiliaries enabled him speedily to throw off the mask. Early in the month of May, 1170, Robert Fitz-Stephen, with Hervey of Mountmorres, who was nephew to Strongbow, and Meyler Fitz-Henry, arrived at a creek called the Bann, near Fethard, in the county of Wexford, where they landed, with thirty knights, sixty men at arms, and three hundred archers. This body was reinforced on the following day by Maurice Prendergast, at the head of ten knights, and two hundred archers. When Dermod was informed of these events, he forgot his engagements with Roderick, and instantly sent five hundred men, commanded by Donald Kavanagh, his natural son, to unite with the invaders. These were speedily followed by the King of Leinster in person, when it was resolved to commence operations by attempting the reduction of Wexford, a place of some strength, which was garrisoned by two thousand Irish and Ostmen. These brave but undisciplined troops marched out boldly against the assailants; but the appearance and regularity of the British forces, with their barbed horses and glittering armour, struck them with a sudden terror, and after setting fire to the suburbs they

retired within the town, which they resolved to defend to the last extremity. The first attack of the besiegers was repulsed with the loss of eighteen men, upon which Fitz-Stephen withdrew to the sea shore, and set fire to his transports, to convince his followers that he was determined to conquer or perish. On the following day he ordered mass to be celebrated in the camp, and again led his forces towards Wexford. This perseverance of the besiegers now struck the inhabitants with terror, and the remonstrances of the clergy prevailed upon the garrison to offer terms of capitulation, by which it was proposed that the town should be surrendered to Dermot, and that hostages should be given for the future fidelity of the inhabitants. These terms being accepted, Fitz-Stephen and Fitzgerald were jointly invested with the lordship of Wexford and its domain, agreeably to the treaty which had been made with them, while Hervey of Mountmorres obtained two considerable districts on the coast between Wexford and Waterford.

This first success increased Dermot's army to three thousand men, exclusive of his foreign auxiliaries ; and after entertaining them for three weeks at his residence in Ferns, he marched towards the territories of the Prince of Ossory, who had not only revolted against him, but put his son to death. He found Fitz-Patrick, the Ossorian prince, at the head of five thousand men, strongly entrenched on the frontiers. A fierce encounter ensued, in which the

British were at first vigorously repulsed : but the Ossorians rashly quitted their advantageous situation amidst woods and morasses, and the skill and valour of their opponents proved ultimately successful. Dermod now wreaked his vengeance on others of his revolted subjects, but his successful progress at length aroused the Monarch Roderick to a sense of the danger by which he was menaced. The various chieftains were summoned to attend his standard with their vassals, and a large army was by this means assembled at Tarah, which soon entered the territories of Dermod, and compelled him and his auxiliaries to retire to their fastnesses in the neighbourhood of Ferns, which were almost impregnable. Roderick, sensible of the advantageous position of his opponents, and dreading the consequences of a defeat, resolved to try the effects of a negociation before he resorted to the uncertain decision of the sword. He commenced by attempting to detach the British leaders from their alliance with Dermod, pointing out the injustice of their conduct, in leading forces into a foreign country, to defend the cause of a tyrant and adulterer ; and he advised them to quit the country before they became involved in the ruin which impended over him. As Fitz-Stephen rejected these overtures with disdain,* Roderick next

* The following are given by Doctor Hanmer as copies of the letters which passed between Roderick and Fitz-Stephen upon this occasion. "The Britons," said the former, "may not by law of arms display their ensigns in foreign posses-

addressed himself to the King of Leinster, whom he exhorted to abandon the cause of the strangers, and return to his allegiance, before they had made a permanent and powerful establishment, which would ultimately reduce the whole province to their authority. On condition of his uniting with his countrymen against the common enemy, Roderick promised to reinstate him in his rights; but should he persevere in his rebellious practices, the Monarch was prepared to punish his treason.

Dermod having also disdainfully rejected the pacific overtures of his sovereign, no wiser counsel appeared to remain to Roderick but a valiant effort to crush, in its infancy, an enterprize which menaced the subversion of his government. But listening to

sions, nor dispossess the lawful heirs of their inheritance; but they are, with license of the Irish, to pack home. It is a blemish on their nation to give aid to a shameful fact; neither may the lechery of Dermod be mantled under British cloaks. Wherefore depart, and forsake him that is forsaken of God and man: and here, by my messengers, receive to defray your charges, and transport you to your native soil." Critical as the situation of Fitz-Stephen was, he returned an answer in the language of a conqueror:—"Your present," said he, "I will not accept; nor will I break the faith and troth I have promised to my friend Dermod: he forsakes not me, I will not forsake him, neither leave him distressed. You speak of lechery, what is that among martial men? I hear you have bastards yourself. To what use is your embassy? If Roderick give counsel, we need it not; if he prophesy, we credit not his oracle; if he command as a prince, we obey not his authority; if he threaten as an enemy, a fig for his monarchy."

the timid suggestions of his clergy, he had recourse, once more, to negociation, and he offered terms of such a nature as appeared to gratify all the desires of his antagonist. On the sole condition of acknowledging the supremacy of Roderick, Dermod was permitted to proceed in the reduction of Leinster. The Monarch required that the chieftain's favorite son should be delivered to him as a hostage, promising, at the same time, that he would give his daughter in marriage to this youth, when the peace of the island should be effectually restored. Dermod acquiesced, with apparent cheerfulness, in the terms of this treaty, and engaged to dismiss his British auxiliaries immediately after he had completed the reduction of his territories. For the accomplishment of this he instantly prepared; and while Fitz-Stephen was busily employed in strengthening his conquests at Wexford, by building the fort of Carrig, Dermod advanced towards Dublin, determined to punish the inhabitants who were principally Ostmen. They had formerly murdered his father, and for many years had acknowledged no other sovereign than the Danish governor, Hesculph Mac-Torcall. Fire and slaughter marked his way to the gates of Dublin, and the terror of his arms compelled the citizens to return to their allegiance.

This success served to revive in the breast of Dermod further projects of ambition; and an incident occurred about this time which afforded him a pretext for breaking his recent engagements with his

sovereign. Upon the restoration of the King of Leinster, Donald, Prince of Limerick, sought his alliance, which he cemented by marrying his daughter. A quarrel broke out soon after between Donald and Roderick, relative to the division of Munster between the former and Mac Carthy, Prince of Desmond.—Roderick resolved to turn his whole force against this rebellious chieftain, whom Dermod, regardless of his solemn engagements, determined to support, as a means of weakening the Monarch, and probably leading to the accomplishment of what he now aspired to, the possession of the throne of Ireland. He accordingly solicited Fitz-Stephen to march to the assistance of his son-in-law; and on the approach of the British, Roderick was forced to retire into Connaught. Dermod now unfolded his ambitious designs to the English leaders, but they dissuaded him from his purpose until he should receive further succours from England; and at their suggestion, he despatched another message to Strongbow, earnestly soliciting the fulfilment of his engagements.

The Earl of Chepstow, being anxious to obey this invitation, immediately repaired to the King, to intreat his permission to depart on the Irish expedition with his friends and followers. But the politic Henry, being unprepared to undertake the conquest on his own account, and unwilling to lose the opportunity which the present state of things presented for furthering his ultimate projects, would give no reply which could be construed either into

a permission or denial. Strongbow, however, considered this duplicity as a token of the King's approbation, and on his return to England he made such vigorous preparations for his departure, that in the spring of 1171 his advanced guard, consisting of ten knights and seventy archers, embarked under Raymond le Gross. This small band landed at Dundrone, or Dun-Isle, within four miles of Waterford, where they hastily erected a small fort. The Danes of that city resolved to attack the invaders before their strength should be increased, and being joined by some of the Irish under O'Faolan, Prince of the Deisies, and O'Ryan of Idrone, they speedily collected a body of three thousand men. At the approach of this tumultuary force Raymond retired within his fort. The Irish pressed closely and incautiously upon them, and some had even penetrated the fort, when Raymond boldly assailed and slew their leader. He at the same time turned a large herd of cattle loose among the enemy, which threw them into irrecoverable confusion, and they fled with the loss of more than five hundred men. Among the prisoners taken were seventy of the principal citizens of Waterford, who were put to death by order of Hervey of Mountmorres, to revenge the death of one of the English chieftains slain in the battle, and to intimidate the natives from any further attempts on the station which they occupied, and which they were permitted to retain unmolested until the arrival of Strongbow.

This celebrated chieftain entered the harbour of Waterford on the 23d of August, 1171, with two hundred knights, and about twelve hundred well appointed infantry ; and being joined by Raymond le Gross, and the King of Leinster, he marched on the following morning to attack the city of Waterford, which was prepared for a vigorous defence. The first attempts of the assailants were bravely repulsed ; but Raymond perceiving a small house of timber in the eastern angle, which projected beyond the walls, and was supported by posts on the outside, directed all his efforts to this quarter, and having burnt down the posts, the house fell, and drew with it such a portion of the wall, as made a practicable breach, through which the besiegers rushed in, and the city soon became a scene of promiscuous carnage.— Prince Reginald, the Danish governor, and O'Faolan, Prince of the Deisies, were made prisoners, and would have fallen victims to the cruelty of the conquerors, had not the arrival of Dermot put an end to the slaughter. When order was restored, Fitz-Stephen and the other English chieftains arrived in Waterford, to witness the nuptials of Strongbow with the Princess of Leinster, which were solemnized with great pomp ; and after the ceremony Dermot and his confederates marched towards Dublin, in the neighbourhood of which the Monarch Roderick, assisted by O'Ruarc and O'Carroll, had assembled an army, which is said to have amounted to thirty thousand men. The force of their opponents is represented

as not amounting to a sixth of their number; but this deficiency was compensated by the superior order and discipline that prevailed amongst them, so that after some unimportant skirmishing, the army of Roderick dispersed, and left the Ostmen of Dublin to sustain the whole fury of the attack. They endeavoured to mollify the resentment of Dermod, by sending a deputation headed by Lawrence, their venerable Archbishop, who consented to surrender the city, and give thirty hostages for its future loyalty. But in the mean time Miles Cogan, who was posted on the other side of the town, and knew nothing of the capitulation, made a practicable breach in the walls, and the streets were soon filled with carnage. Hesculph, the governor, and many of the inhabitants, effected their escape by sea, with the most valuable part of their property.

Leaving Milo de Cogan governor of Dublin, Dermod and Strongbow now over-ran the kingdom of Meath, which Roderick had divided between himself and his friend O'Ruarc. The Irish Monarch was at this time placed in the most perilous circumstances; for, while foreign invaders were ravaging the whole of Leinster, the ambition and turbulence of his sons, were fomenting the flame of civil warfare in Connaught, his native province. Unable to meet his principal adversary in the field, he had recourse once more to intimidation; and he threatened that if Dermod did not immediately return to his allegiance, and fulfil the terms of the treaty which

had been agreed upon between them, the life of his son, whom he held as a hostage, should be the forfeit of his perfidy. The reply of Dermod declared that he was equally regardless of the ties of parental affection, and the duty which he owed his country. He renounced the supremacy of Roderick, and openly avowed his resolution not to lay down his arms, till the whole island had acknowledged his jurisdiction. Enraged at this insolent answer, Roderick, with a brutal cruelty which has excited the abhorrence of the Irish annalists, ordered the young prince, his hostage, who is stated to have been the noblest and most amiable youth of Leinster, to be led to immediate execution.

The successful progress of the invaders, the civil dissensions which prevailed, and the ignoble conduct of the Monarch Roderick, now spread consternation throughout the island. These tokens of the divine wrath were justly attributed to the prevalent corruption of the people; and a synod of the clergy which assembled at Armagh, declaring that the real cause of the divine displeasure, was the unchristian practice of purchasing and selling Englishmen as slaves, they ordered that every English bondman, should be immediately set free. Some reverses which soon after befel Dermod and his allies, seemed to strengthen this opinion; for the King of Leinster experienced two severe defeats from O'Ruarc; while the English Monarch, becoming jealous of the power of Strongbow, issued his royal edict, prohibit-

ing the exportation of men, arms, or provisions, into Ireland, and commanding all his subjects resident there to return to England before the ensuing feast of Easter on pain of being declared traitors. Alarmed at this intelligence, which threatened to destroy all his splendid prospects, Strongbow adopted the only means which were likely to avert the stroke, by sending Raymond le Gross, a man of consummate prudence, with letters to King Henry in Aquitaine, which were filled with assurances of the most devoted loyalty, and declared that all their conquests should be at his Majesty's disposal, as their natural and rightful lord. But Henry received the messenger with all the tokens of offended dignity, and under various pretexts deferred giving him a decisive answer.

In the mean time Strongbow was threatened with fresh calamities by the death of Dermod, and the consequent defection of the greater part of his Irish allies. While he was contending with these disasters, Hesculph, who had escaped from Dublin, appeared at the gates of the city, with a considerable and well appointed force, and made a furious assault on the eastern gate: but while Milo de Cogan, the governor, maintained an obstinate defence in that quarter, his brother Richard attacked the enemy in the rear, and a complete rout ensued. Hesculph, their general, was taken prisoner, who holding out threats that an armament was preparing, which would soon destroy the power of the English, was led to immediate

execution. In a few days events occurred which rendered it probable that the menaces of Hesculph would be soon realized: Raymond had returned from King Henry without an explicit answer; the English were cut off from all supplies, and the period assigned for their departure was drawing nigh. Elevated by the distress in which the invaders were thus involved, Roderick once more took the field, while the zealous exertions of Archbishop Laurence, who flew from province to province, succeeded in uniting the greater part of the Irish chieftains in a combined effort for the deliverance of their country. In this manner sixty thousand men are said to have been collected for the siege of Dublin. An alliance was formed, at the same time, with the King of the Isle of Man, who promised to block up the harbour with thirty ships.

Roderick having arrived with his forces in the neighbourhood of Dublin, encamped to the westward near Castleknock, while O'Ruarc and O'Carroll posted themselves north of the harbour near Clontarf; the Lord of O'Kinselagh possessed the opposite side, and the Prince of Thomond advanced to Kilmainham within a mile of the walls. But this numerous force was weakened by mutual jealousies, and instead of making a united effort for carrying the place by assault, they contented themselves for two months with investing it so as to prevent the garrison from receiving supplies. The English now became greatly weakened by disease and want of

provisions, and Earl Strongbow, despairing of relief, resolved to enter into a negociation with Roderick, through the mediation of Archbishop Laurence. But the Irish Monarch refused to treat on any other terms than that the English should surrender all their conquests, and return to their own country. These proposals, fair as they must have appeared under all the circumstances, threw the British leaders into the utmost consternation, from which they were roused by Milo de Cogan, who declared his resolution to perish bravely, rather than submit to the mercy of a barbarous enemy.—Fitz-Gerald, Raymond, and the other leaders concurred in this determination, and instantly prepared to put it in execution. They marched suddenly from the city against the camp of Roderick, which they surprized so unexpectedly, that they routed his army ; and the other chieftains, either struck with a sudden panic, or not zealously disposed to support their sovereign, broke up from their quarters and abandoned the siege.

In the mean time Fitz-Stephen had been surrounded in his castle of Carrig by a numerous force of the Irish, who, in spite of a brave resistance, compelled him to surrender. The greater part of his troops were put to death, and he would have himself suffered the same fate, had not the conquerors been alarmed by the news of Roderick's defeat, upon which they set fire to the town of Wexford, and retired with their surviving prisoners to Holy

Island. Strongbow, on hearing of the captivity of his countrymen, marched immediately to their rescue; but while passing through a defile in Hi-drone, he was suddenly attacked by O'Ryan, the chief of that territory, and he was on the point of suffering a total defeat, when O'Ryan was killed by a monk in the English army, upon which the assailants dispersed. Finding that the adoption of any severe measures against the Irish who had retired to the Holy Island, would be attended with the inevitable destruction of his friend Fitz-Stephen, Strongbow marched to Waterford, and from thence proceeded to Ferns, where, in the style of a sovereign, he dispensed rewards and punishments. But he was aroused from this dream of royalty by a fresh mandate from King Henry, summoning him to repair to England without delay, to give an account of his proceedings in Ireland, disavowing, at the same time, all connexion with these transactions, and expressing the greatest displeasure at the presumption and disobedience of his subjects. The Earl, not daring to disobey this command, immediately repaired to England, and met his Sovereign at Newnham, near Gloucester. He soon allayed the pretended apprehensions of Henry by a treaty, in which he agreed to surrender Dublin and all the conquered maritime towns to the King, and to hold all his other Irish possessions in perpetuity from his Majesty and his heirs. He now attended his sovereign to Milford, where the royal forces were

assembling. The politic Henry, on his progress, seized almost every castle in Wales, as a punishment for the Welsh lords having dared to undertake the invasion of Ireland without his permission: and carrying his dissimulation to the highest pitch, he received a deputation of the men of Waterford, who had seized the person of Fitz-Stephen, with expressions of the most gracious kind, commending their zeal for having checked the unwarrantable attempts of that chieftain, and declaring his resolution to inflict punishment for every offence committed by his undutiful subjects. While these artifices tended to ingratiate the English Monarch with the Irish nation, they also preserved the lives of Fitz-Stephen and his associates from the fury of those who still held them in captivity.

During the absence of Earl Strongbow, another attempt was made on the garrison of Dublin, by O'Ruarc, Prince of Breffney, which was repulsed by Cogan, the governor, after considerable loss had been sustained on both sides. These partial and ill-concerted efforts on the part of the Irish chieftains for the recovery of their independence, served only to defeat their object, and to prostrate the whole island, enfeebled and disunited, at the feet of the English Monarch, who landed at Waterford on the 18th of October, 1174, attended by Earl Strongbow, William Fitz-Andelm, Humphrey de Bohun, Hugh de Lacy, Robert Fitz-Bernard, with many other barons, about four hundred knights, and four

thousand soldiers. The whole of Henry's subsequent conduct manifested a desire that he should be generally considered not to have entered the island in the style of a conqueror, but for the purpose of taking possession of a country which had become his rightful patrimony by authority of the Pope, to whose paramount supremacy he expected that every knee should bow. Nor did he prove mistaken in this conjecture. The example of submission was given by Earl Strongbow, who, on the day of Henry's arrival, made a formal surrender of Dublin and Waterford, and did homage to the new sovereign for the principality of Leinster, amidst the acclamations of the people. On the following day Dermot Mac Arthy, Prince of Desmond, resigned his city of Cork to the King, and agreed to pay tribute for the remainder of his territory. Henry now made a splendid progress to Lismore, where he gave orders for building a fort. He then proceeded to Cashel, where he is said to have exerted his eloquence to impress the Archbishop with a high opinion of his zeal for the interests of the Church, and his gracious designs towards Ireland. The proximity of a numerous and well-appointed army, headed by a powerful monarch, hastened the submission of all the neighbouring chieftains, and in a few days Henry O'Brien of Thomond, Mac Giolla-phadruig (Fitzpatrick) of Ossory, and O'Faolan of the Deisies, acknowledged themselves tributaries of the English Sovereign, and departed from his court

loaded with presents, and filled with admiration of his greatness and condescension. Wexford was soon after surrendered by Fitz-Stephen, who was restored to his liberty and the favor of his sovereign.

Having left garrisons in Waterford, Limerick, Cork and Wexford, Henry made a stately progress towards Dublin, receiving the homage of the Leinster chieftains, amongst whom were O'Carrol of Ar-gial, and O'Ruarc, the intimate associate of the Irish Monarch. Roderick, thus deserted by his tributaries, had no means of successfully opposing the march of the royal invaders; yet determined, at least, to defend his own territory, he collected his provincial troops on the banks of the Shannon.— Henry, in the mean time, passed his Christmas in Dublin, entertaining the Irish chieftains who had submitted to him with all the pomp and magnificence which his present situation would permit; and this splendid hospitality had, no doubt, its due effect on a simple people, proverbial for warm and generous feelings. His next step was to manifest his anxiety to fulfil the conditions of his grant from Pope Adrian, by directing his attention to the reformation of the Church and people of Ireland.— For this purpose he issued orders for a synod of the clergy to assemble at Cashel, which were obeyed by many of the prelates: but Gelasius, the Primate, is stated to have pleaded his age and infirmities as an excuse for not attending, and the prelates of Ulster followed the example of their metropolitan.

Christian, Bishop of Lismore, presided in this assembly as the Pope's Legate, and several of the English clergy attended on the part of Henry.—After a variety of canons were established, chiefly respecting religious rites and ecclesiastical regulations, the grand object of the convocation was accomplished by the Irish prelates executing sealed charters, in which they took upon them to confer Ireland on Henry II. and his heirs for ever; and these charters were afterwards ratified by Pope Alexander. In return for these favors, the King granted to the clergy an exemption from all secular exactions, and many other important privileges.

By his treaties with the Irish princes, Henry and his heirs were acknowledged lords paramount of the territories which these chieftains retained, and inheritors of those which they resigned to the crown of England for ever. Thus the province of Leinster, a great part of Meath, and the principal maritime towns were ceded to the King, who had now a considerable number of subjects in the island, on whom all the advantages of the English constitution and laws were conferred. Henry granted the city of Dublin to the inhabitants of Bristol; and to his burgesses of Dublin he confirmed all manner of rights and immunities throughout the whole of his dominions. Similar privileges were conferred on the Ostmen of Waterford, who were admitted to the rights of free subjects by a particular charter of denization. He divided the ceded districts into shires

and counties, over which sheriffs were appointed, with itinerant judges and other officers; and, to complete the whole, a chief governor or representative of the King was nominated, who was to exercise such parts of the regal authority as might be committed to him during the King's absence.

But the British Monarch was compelled by the necessity of his affairs in England and Normandy, to take his departure from this country much sooner than the security of his new acquisitions or the general interests of Ireland permitted; and to this circumstance may, in a great measure, be attributed the unsettled and distracted state in which the nation continued for many succeeding centuries. No part of the northern or western provinces had yet been reduced. Very few forts had been built in the ceded districts, to restrain the turbulence of the natives; while the King still entertained some apprehensions that Earl Strongbow aimed at assuming an independent sovereignty over the province of Leinster. He therefore sought by grants and promises to detach the other English adventurers from the interests of this powerful chieftain. On Robert Fitz-Stephen he conferred an extensive district in the neighbourhood of Dublin; and this chieftain, and Maurice Fitz-Gerald, were made coadjutors to Hugh de Lacy, whom the King appointed Chief Governor of Ireland; he also granted to De Lacy the whole territory of Meath. The entire province of Ulster was bestowed on John de Courcy, provided he could

reduce it by force of arms. To Humphry Bohun, Robert Fitz-Bernard and Hugh de Gunville was committed the custody of Wexford. Henry ordered a castle to be erected in Dublin, and fortresses to be built in some other places, and after making these hasty arrangements for the security of his new acquisitions, he embarked at Wexford, for Wales, and thence proceeded rapidly to Normandy, where he concluded all his differences with the See of Rome, and received a confirmation of the grant of Ireland from Pope Alexander.

The King's departure was speedily followed by such symptoms as gave demonstrative proof, that the allegiance and attachment of the native chieftains could only be relied on when there were sufficient force and power to command them. Strongbow was defeated in an expedition against O'Dempsey, chieftain of Ofally, and Robert de Quincy, his chief constable, was slain. The efforts of Hugh de Lacy to establish and strengthen an extensive English settlement in Meath, aroused the jealousy of O'Ruarc of Brefney, who still, as a tributary to the King of England, retained possession of the eastern part of that district. He demanded redress from de Lacy, who appointed a day for holding a conference with him at Tarah. They accordingly met, attended on each side by an equal number of followers: the negociation, however, terminated in hostilities, in which O'Ruarc was slain by Griffith, a Welch Knight, and many of his retinue were put to the sword. Who the aggressor

was in this affair has not been clearly ascertained ; but the event, though it delivered the English governor from a dangerous rival, tended to inflame the enmity of the natives against their new masters.

The state of Henry's affairs soon gave encouragement to the hopes which they began to entertain of expelling the invaders from the island ; for the rebellion of his sons, aided by the Kings of France and Scotland, compelled him to withdraw several of his garrisons from Ireland, and to summon Earl Strongbow, and other English lords to his assistance in Normandy. Their departure proved the signal for the Irish chieftains to disavow their late submission, while the discontents which prevailed among the remnant of the English army through the mutual jealousies of their commanders, Hervey de Mountmorres, and Raymond le Gross, rendered them likely to fall an easy prey to their numerous enemies.

This alarming posture of affairs in Ireland, determined Henry to commit the whole direction of the government to Earl Strongbow, and that nobleman speedily returned in the high character of his Majesty's Deputy. On his arrival at Dublin, he found the country in the greatest confusion : many of the Irish chiefs being in arms, while the English troops had become disorderly and mutinous. Strongbow adopted the most likely method to appease this dangerous spirit, by ordering the army on active service under Raymond leGross, their favourite general, who after ra-

vaging Ofally and Lismore, returned in triumph to Waterford, in spite of the efforts of Macarthy of Desmond, who was now in arms against the English. This success, while it elevated Raymond still higher in the opinion of the army, excited the jealousy of Strongbow, who rejected the proposals of the general for a marriage with his sister, and Raymond retired into Wales in disgust.

The command of the army was now conferred on Hervey of Mountmorres, who anxious to emulate the glory of his rival, solicited Strongbow to bend all his force against the insurgents of Munster, as the most likely method of striking terror into Roderick, who was again making preparations for the recovery of the monarchy. Yielding to these suggestions Strongbow marched to the city of Cashel, where he was joined by Mountmorres. But the object of the expedition was completely defeated by the active vigilance of Donald O'Brien, king of Limerick, who surprised a body of Ostmen, belonging to Strongbow's army at Thurles, and slew four hundred of them with some of their principal officers. This unfortunate event compelled the Earl to shut himself up in Waterford, while it encouraged the disaffected in various quarters to take up arms. Many of the Leinster chieftains renounced their engagements to King Henry; Donald Kavanagh, son of the late King Dermot, declared his intention of asserting his title to the kingdom of Leinster, while the Monarch Roderick was actively engaged in forming a confederacy

with the lords of Ulster and Meath for the total expulsion of the English.

Alarmed by the disastrous state of his affairs, Strongbow was compelled to solicit the return of Raymond with such reinforcements as he could procure, yielding at the same time to all his former demands. Raymond obeying with alacrity the voice of love and duty, arrived in the harbour of Waterford, with about five hundred men, at the critical moment when the inhabitants are said to have resolved on extirpating the English garrison by a general massacre. Strongbow and Raymond marched immediately for Wexford to check the progress of insurrection in Leinster ; but they had scarcely left the city, when the inhabitants, aided by some Ostmen, fell upon the remaining English, and slaughtered many of them ; but the garrison of the citadel, called Reginald's tower, defended themselves with such spirit, that they compelled the townsmen to submission. In the mean time the marriage of Raymond with the sister of Strongbow, was celebrated at Wexford.—The nuptial rites, however, were scarcely completed, when intelligence arrived, that Roderick had suddenly crossed the Shannon, entered the territory of Meath, burned the newly erected forts to the ground, and expelled the English colonists. But the ancient spirit of dissension breaking out amongst the Irish chieftains, this triumph proved of short duration, and Roderick retired into his own province with such precipitation, that the English could only annoy his rear-guard.

The spirit of insurrection in Leinster being now considerably repressed, Earl Strongbow again turned his attention to the subjugation of the Prince of Thomond, who, having possessed himself of Limerick, bade defiance to the English power. An expedition for this purpose was entrusted to the command of Raymond, who, after fording the Shannon at the head of six hundred men, obtained possession of the city with little opposition. By these reiterated misfortunes the spirit of the Monarch Roderick was completely broken, and he saw little hope of being able, with a vassal army, to contend against the augmented power of the King of England, who was now triumphant over all his foreign and domestic enemies. To secure the sovereignty of his own province, became at this time his sole object, and to negotiate for that purpose, he despatched Catholicus, Archbishop of Tuam, the Abbot of St. Brandan, and his Chancellor, Master Laurence, who were introduced to King Henry, at Windsor, A. D. 1175. Terms of accommodation were soon agreed upon, by which Roderick consented to do homage and pay tribute, as liege man to the king of England, and on these conditions he was allowed to hold the kingdom of Connaught, as well as his other lands and sovereignties in the most ample manner. The annual tribute to be paid was every tenth merchantable hide, which Roderick engaged to enforce from every part of the island, excepting those places which had been ceded to King Henry and his Barons, viz. the city of Dub-

lin and its appurtenances, the province of Meath, all Leinster, and Waterford, with its lands as far as Dungarvan inclusive. In these quarters Roderick was to have no authority. He was empowered to take hostages from his vassals, and deliver them to Henry, whom he acknowledged as his liege lord. In this treaty the supremacy of Roderick seems to have been industriously recognized, that his submission might invest Henry with the sovereignty of the whole island. This, no doubt, was esteemed by the English monarch, a master stroke of policy ; but events quickly proved, that the Irish chieftains now felt as little reverence for the supremacy of Roderick, as they did a few years before when they renounced their allegiance to him, by becoming the vassals of the crown.

It soon became evident that Henry's sovereignty received little additional strength from this treaty, and the disaffection of the Irish chieftains continued, with the ambitious jealousies of the English leaders, to render the country a continual scene of warfare and confusion. Raymond had again nearly fallen a victim to the machinations of his rival, Hervey of Mountmorres, when a fresh insurrection of the Prince of Thomond, placed him once more at the head of the army, and obtained for him fresh triumphs. O'Brien was soon reduced to submission, and took the oath of allegiance to the English monarch. Raymond was then solicited by Macarthy, Prince of Desmond, to rescue him from the cruelty of a rebellious son, who had

cast him into prison. This service was ably accomplished by the English general, and was rewarded by a valuable grant of lands in Kerry. But from his career of conquest Raymond was suddenly recalled to Dublin, by the death of Earl Strongbow. Anxious for the security of the English province, he was compelled to withdraw the garrison of Limerick, which important place he thought he might now safely entrust to Donald O'Brien, who by his late submission had become one of the barons. The English troops, however, had scarcely passed the bridge, when O'Brien broke it down, and set fire to the city, declaring that it should no longer be a nest of foreigners. On his arrival in Dublin, Raymond was elected Chief Governor by the English Council, until the king's pleasure should be known. But Henry, jealous of the popularity of that distinguished general, refused his sanction to the appointment, and conferred the government on William Fitz-Andelm de Burgo, who was allied to him by blood, and of approved allegiance. The new governor landed at Wexford, attended by a splendid retinue, amongst whom were de Courcy, Fitz-Stephen, Miles de Cogan, Vivian the Pope's legate, and Wallingford, an English ecclesiastic, with the brief of Pope Alexander, which confirmed to King Henry his title to the sovereignty of Ireland. After Fitz-Andelm had made a stately progress to inspect the king's cities and forts, an assembly of the clergy was convened at Waterford, in which the bulls of Popes Adrian and Alexander were

promulged, and the severest censures were denounced against all who should impeach the grants made by the Holy See, or resist the sovereign authority of Henry, whom they constituted rightful Lord of Ireland.

It soon became evident that the chief object of Andelm's administration, was to depress the powers of the first English adventures, and to enrich himself and his dependents ; and while he was despised by the Irish Chieftains whom he courted and flattered, he became an object of detestation to his own countrymen, whose properties and interests he sacrificed to the luxury and rapacity of his Norman followers. While the leaders openly avowed their discontent at those proceedings, the army became mutinous for want of pay and suitable appointments. John de Courcy, a man whose extraordinary strength and valour had rendered him a peculiar favourite with the soldiery, was not slow in inflaming this spirit of disaffection towards the governor, and he called on them to assist him in an expedition into Ulster, where the English arms had not yet penetrated, and where the King had formerly granted him such lands as he could acquire by the sword. In this enterprize he was joined by Armoric of St. Laurence, and Robert de la Poer, two valiant knights, with a considerable number of soldiers. A long period of sanguinary warfare and devastation ensued, by which de Courcy and his partisans acquired a large tract of territory, which he endeavoured to secure by building a num-

ber of forts. About the same period, Milo de Cogan made a predatory incursion into Connaught at the solicitation of Murrough, the son of Roderick O'Connor, who had taken up arms against his father ; but after experiencing and inflicting severe losses, he was forced to retreat and leave Murrough to the resentment of his countrymen, who with the concurrence of his justly incensed father, ordered his eyes to be put out. The whole island at this period presented a scene of indescribable horror and confusion ; for while the invaders pursued their course of rapacity and cruelty with unabated vigour, the natives not only sought every opportunity for inflicting a dreadful retaliation on the foreigners, but they were faithless to each other ; and every fresh act of treachery or murder laid the foundation of a revenge which proved almost interminable.

After a ruinous administration of two years, Fitz-Andelm was recalled in 1179, and Hugh de Lacy, the first English Chief Governor, was re-appointed to that important office. Henry, at the same time, constituted his youngest son John, Lord of Ireland. He also conferred some additional favors on several of his military leaders in that country, which it is difficult to reconcile with the treaty which he had so recently concluded with Roderick. To Milo de Cogan and Robert Fitz-Stephen, he granted the kingdom of Cork, with the exception of the city, which he reserved to to himself and his heirs. To Herebert Fitz-Herebert, he granted the kingdom of Limerick,

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with a like exception of the city. Waterford was given to Robert de la Poer, with a similar reservation. He renewed his former grant of all Meath to Hugh de Lacy, and the greatest part of Connaught was bestowed on William Fitz-Andelm. Fitz-Herebert having resigned his grant of Limerick, where the Irish were considered most hostile, it was conferred on Philip de Braosa, who immediately proceeded with Cogan and Fitz-Stephen to obtain possession of the territories which had been thus appropriated. As Cork was possessed by an English garrison, they found in that city a hospitable reception. The neighbouring chiefs, however, refused to relinquish their native possessions ; but after some trifling hostilities, a treaty was concluded by which seven cantreds of land in the vicinity of the city were ceded to the two English chieftains, who now proceeded with Philip de Braosa towards Limerick. Here they were opposed by still greater obstacles, for at the first approach of their troops the city was set on fire, and Braosa returned confounded to Cork.

Hugh de Lacy governed Ireland for five years, with such prudence, ability, and vigour as might, if they had been followed up by his successors, have ensured the permanent happiness and tranquillity of the country. While he assiduously attended to the interests of the English, his power and influence were employed to protect the natives from oppression, to extend civilization and industry amongst them, and reconcile them to the new settlers by promoting a

friendly intercourse between both parties ; of this he set an example himself by marrying a daughter of Roderick O'Connor. He caused justice to be impartially administered, and he strengthened and secured the English territories by erecting forts in various parts of Leinster. John de Courcey proceeded successfully in establishing settlements in Ulster, and Munster continued unusually tranquil, yet the turbulent conduct of the sons of Roderick rendered Connaught the constant theatre of desperate hostilities. But Henry, notwithstanding the improved state of the affairs of Ireland, still indulging that mean jealousy which formed so striking a feature in his character, listened to suggestions respecting the popularity, the power, and the ambition of De Lacy, and unmindful of his services, he recalled him from his government. He was succeeded by Philip de Braosa, or Philip of Worcester, whose administration, which continued but a few months, rendered him odious to the whole nation.

In the year 1185, the English monarch with an imprudence that is wholly unaccountable, resolved to entrust the government of Ireland to his son John, who was at that time only twelve years of age. The young prince landed at Waterford, with a considerable army. He was attended by a numerous train of proud and insolent Normans, and a number of needy Englishmen, who hoped to retrieve their shattered fortunes in his service. He was also accompanied by Ralph Granville, a lawyer of eminence, as his principal counsellor, and several ecclesiastics, amongst

whom was the well known writer on Irish affairs, Giraldus Cambrensis. Some of the Leinster chieftains speedily repaired to the court of Prince John to tender their respectful homage ; but their simple attire and unpolished manners, excited the contempt and ridicule of the vain and frivolous Normans. The lofty spirit of the Irish lords being roused to fury by this rudeness, they left the court inflamed with indignation, and meditating revenge. The circumstances of their reception were speedily circulated throughout the island, and the Princes of Thomond and Desmond, with several of the Connaught chieftains, who were on the point of proceeding to do homage to Prince John, resolved to make another effort for the recovery of their independence.

Instead of adopting, on the one hand, judicious measures for repressing the rising spirit of hostility, and on the other, conciliating the friendship of the old English settlers and those Irish who continued to live peaceably amongst them, the new adventurers were permitted to drive them from their settlements, to make room for their own dependents. Irritated by their unjust sufferings, many of them joined the discontented chieftains, whose army was thus considerably reinforced. The gay and luxurious court of John at length became alarmed at those proceedings, and to protect the English province, castles were ordered to be erected at Tipperary, Ardfinnan, and Lismore. But they were speedily demolished by the insurgents, while the civil war was carried with

dreadful rapidity into various other quarters. The celebrated Robert de la Poer was slain in Ossory ; some other distinguished English leaders met a similar fate, and Cork would have fallen into the hands of Mac Arthy of Desmond, but for the bravery of Theobald Fitz-Walter, the founder of the noble house of Ormond, who slew the Irish prince, with his whole party. A great portion of the country having continued for several months a scene of devastation which threatened the total subversion of the English power, Henry deprived his son of that authority with which he had so imprudently invested him, and which had been so weakly and wantonly exercised by his rapacious and libidinous courtiers.

Hugh de Lacy would have been the most suitable person for appeasing the turbulence which at this time universally prevailed ; but he had recently fallen by the hands of an assassin. This unfortunate event caused Henry to confer the government on John de Courcey, the fame of whose distinguished activity and valour terrified the insurgents, and checked their inroads on the English province. The renewal of intestine quarrels soon destroyed the bond of union amongst the Irish ; for while the Northern chiefs were engaged in sanguinary hostilities amongst themselves in Connaught, the unnatural sons of Roderick again took arms against their father, whom they obliged to relinquish his nominal authority, and seek refuge from a scene of turbulence and anxiety in the monastery of Cong. This prevalence

of faction amongst the natives enabled De Courcey not only to repel every attempt of the enemy against the English territory, but to carry his arms into the hostile provinces. But the united force of Connor, the son of Roderick, and Donald O'Brien of Thomond, compelled him to retreat from Connaught with considerable loss, and this reverse encouraged the Ulster chiefs to attack the English settlements in that quarter. All their efforts, however, proved abortive, and the arrival of De Courcey who stormed and burned the town of Armagh, restored the country to apparent tranquillity. Connor, the king of Connaught, was assassinated about the same time, through the machinations of an ambitious brother, who fell soon after by the hand of a son of the murdered prince. Fresh scenes of intestine anarchy and slaughter sprang from these events, and the English power acquired augmented strength from the barbarous feuds and impolitic dissensions of the natives.

It was at this period, A. D. 1189, that Henry II. ended his days in Normandy, twenty years after the first English invasion of Ireland. However plausible the pretexts which he urged in justification of this project may appear, we cannot hesitate to pronounce that his real motive was that thirst of extended power which is the almost universal foible of princes. Had the circumstances of his reign permitted Henry to effect a real conquest of the country, and thus give free scope to the operation of English laws and institutions, there can be little doubt, that Ireland

would at this day, fill that situation among the nations of the earth, for which the natural advantages conferred by Providence appear to have designed her. But the circumstances of peril and perplexity in which Henry was placed during the whole of his reign led him to the adoption of a political system with regard to this country, which greatly derogated from that wisdom and magnanimity by which he was generally characterized, and laid a foundation for all her subsequent misfortunes. Without the power to effect a complete conquest, he still resolved at every risque to maintain the footing which he obtained in the island, trusting to future contingencies for its final subjugation. But the plans which were adopted, were much more calculated to retard than to accelerate such an event. The original adventurers, who engaged in the service of a native prince that was held in abhorrence by the majority of the Irish, were invested with domains which conferred upon them all the dignity and power of independent chieftains ; while the governors, who succeeded each other in rapid succession, brought with them a train of favorites, who must be provided for either by new conquests, or by sharing in the territories acquired by the first settlers. Hence deadly animosities were engendered between the English themselves, which would have proved fatal to their power, had not their enemies been still more disunited.

Richard I. on his accession, confirmed to his brother John the grant which his father had made to

him as Lord of Ireland; and the speedy departure of the King for the Holy Land, left in the hands of that prince all the authority connected with it. He commenced his government by appointing Hugh de Lacy, the younger, his deputy in the room of De Courcey, who, filled with indignation, retired into Ulster. Cathal, surnamed *the bloody-handed*, of the family of Roderick, had shortly before this period, obtained the government of Connaught. He soon avowed his hatred to foreigners, and his determination to assert the rights of his family and country; and to accomplish this object more effectually, he concluded a treaty of peace and friendship with the Princes of Thomond and Desmond. As the settlements of De Courcey in Ulster were first menaced with attack, that chieftain collected all his forces to meet the threatened danger; but the brave Armoric of St. Lawrence, his most attached friend, while marching to his assistance through a part of Connaught, was suddenly assailed by Cathal with an overwhelming force, and his whole party, consisting of two hundred and thirty men, were put to the sword, but not till after a most determined resistance, in which a thousand of their enemies are said to have fallen. This success filled the Irish with exultation, and excited a general spirit of revolt amongst all the confederates of Cathal; and those alarming appearances caused John to displace De Lacy, for whom William Petit was substituted. He was quickly succeeded by William, Earl Marshal of England,

who had married Isabella, daughter of Earl Strongbow.

During the whole of this administration, sanguinary hostilities were carried on in Munster. Encouraged by the success of the Sovereign of Connaught, the chieftain of Thomond declared war against the English, and soon after gained a victory over them at Thurles: but the latter retaliated by ravaging Thomond, and they erected several forts for the protection of their own settlements. The death of Daniel O'Brien favoured the progress of the invaders, which is said to have been marked by great barbarities; but the approach of Cathal, the Connaught Prince, forced them to retrace their steps, after they saw their newly erected castles razed to the ground. This success was followed up by Mac Arthy of Desmond, who drove the English out of Limerick, and repulsed them in two attempts to recover that important place. Soon after the united forces of Desmond, Connaught, and O'Loughlan, the Chief of the Northern Hy-Nial, laid siege to Cork, which was compelled to capitulate, and thus the English were deprived of their last remaining post of strength in Munster.

In 1197, Earl Marshal was succeeded in the government by Hamo de Valois. Ireland was at this time in a state of the utmost distraction: De Courcey in Ulster, and De Lacy in Meath, had assumed a state of independence; Connaught, under its native Sovereign, defied the power of the English; Munster was nearly evacuated by them, and

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their authority in Leinster was maintained with difficulty. An exhausted exchequer forced the new governor to invade the ecclesiastical possessions, and this led Comyn, the Archbishop of Dublin, first to denounce the vengeance of Heaven against these sacrilegious proceedings, and then to abandon the country. It was in the midst of these disorders that Roderick O'Connor breathed his last in extreme old age at the monastery of Cong, where he had been secluded during the last twelve years of his eventful life.

With the death of her last native monarch, we close our outline of the ancient History of Ireland. From this period our connexion with England may be considered as decided, and all the future prominent transactions of the country will be found closely involved with the subsequent History of Limerick. More than six centuries have since passed away, of which the three first were spent in vain efforts to unite in a common allegiance to the English crown two races of men, whom ancient animosities had rendered hostile to each other, and whose prejudices were continued and invigorated, not only by incessant reciprocal injuries, but by the opposing laws and institutions under which they lived. In the two centuries that followed, to political feuds were superadded others of a religious nature ; and that Reformation in the Church, which, after a short struggle, had obtained the almost universal suffrage of the people of England, proved in Ireland the fruitful source of fresh distractions, from the injudicious means which were adopt-

ed for its establishment and extension. Since the accession of the House of Hanover to the throne of Great Britain, efforts have been made, and not without success, to repair the evils which misgovernment on the one hand, and a spirit of intestine turbulence and faction on the other, had, through the whole period of her history, inflicted on this fair island, which, if we may be permitted to judge from the rich bounties of situation, soil, and climate, with which Providence has blessed her, was intended by the God of Nature to be the abode of wealth, of happiness and peace.

The peculiar evils which have afflicted Ireland through every stage of her existence, cannot be justly attributed to any distinctive feature in the character of her people, which, her enemies being judges, possesses qualities of the noblest description, while many of its defects are, perhaps, rather to be referred to the force of circumstances, than to any natural depravity, which, in these particulars, renders them sinners above all others. We conceive that to the ancient division of the country, and the constitution of its government under its native princes, may be traced the origin of Ireland's misery and weakness. The partition of a limited territory amongst so many provincial kings, with its subdivisions amongst innumerable petty chieftains, proved the fruitful parent of perpetual hostilities, and ultimately led to the annihilation of that union which would have been the surest protection against foreign invasion. Eng-

land and other countries, were at one period similarly circumstanced ; but in these, after the lapse of a few centuries, a corrective was applied by the ambition of some tyrant, whose power swallowed up that of the rest, and at the expense of individual rights, gave consolidation and unity to their respective states. But when Ireland, torn as she was by intestine feuds, became an object of cupidity to the neighbouring nations, that union amongst her native princes, which could alone secure her independence, was found to be unattainable : the provincial kings, instead of combining to repel the invaders, weakened each other with senseless fury by domestic hostilities, while the Monarch, deprived of all confidence in his vassals, was forced reluctantly to submit to the domination of a foreigner. Such was the commencement of that feverish connexion which subsisted for several centuries between England and Ireland—a connexion, whose anomalous nature was, at intervals, productive of the most dreadful paroxysms. While the former sought by means, at once impolitic and unjust, to retain the sovereignty of the island, the latter looked alternately to almost every power in Europe, for aid to deliver them from the yoke which they detested. A juster line of policy on the part of the ruling power, has abated that thirst for independence, which there is little prospect that Ireland could long maintain ; and the wise and discerning of both countries are now willing to admit, that the prosperity and happiness of every member of the British

Empire rests solely on a union of affection and interest throughout the whole. All except demagogues and agitators, are willing to consider the ancient injuries inflicted or suffered by either party, not as crimes for which their posterity should pay the penalty, but as an unhappy state of things inseparable from the spirit of an age, when political justice was measured by the sword, and when revenge was ranked amongst the noblest virtues. The lapse of time, the mingling of the two nations by family alliances, the progress of commerce and the arts, and above all, the diffusion of feelings more consonant to morality and true religion, have greatly softened those asperities, which were engendered by the inauspicious circumstances of their first connexion, and invigorated through many generations by reciprocal injuries. England seems, at length, willing to make amends for her former injustice ; and if her suffering sister shall accept the reparation in a gracious spirit of kindness and forgetfulness, a community of interest and affection will speedily render the population of the British Empire, what they never yet have been, *one people*. Partaking in all the blessings which British wealth and British institutions are capable of conferring, Ireland will yet become contented and happy ; while in her fertile soil, Great Britain shall find the granary of her empire, and in her brave and hardy sons, the energetic defenders of her power and greatness.

GOVERNMENT AND RELIGION.

The concurrent testimony of our native annalists confirms the opinion that Ireland, at a very remote period was divided into a pentarchy, composed of the kingdoms of Munster, Leinster, Connaught, Ulster, and Meath. The comparative extent of each has been thus stated.—Munster contained seventy cantreds of land—Leinster, thirty-one—Connaught, thirty—Ulster, thirty-five, and Meath eighteen.—Each cantred contained thirty town-lands, and every town-land eight plough-lands, which latter is generally supposed to have been such a quantity of land as could give employment to one plough through the year. Since the overthrow of the ancient government these kingdoms have been converted into provinces, with the exception of that of Meath, which has been added to the province of Leinster. It has been asserted, that the country was anciently sub-divided into twenty-five dynasties, but we have no authentic information on this subject previous to the division of the several provinces into counties by the English. Twelve of these counties were erected by King John, viz. seven in Leinster, namely, Dublin, Kildare, Meath, Uriel or Louth, Catherlogh (now Carlow,) Kilkenny and Wexford; and five in Munster, viz. Waterford, Cork, Limerick, Kerry and Tipperary. Of these, four counties only in Leinster, namely, Dublin, Meath, Kildare, and Louth, comprized what was called the English pale, and this portion of territory with some of the maritime

towns in other quarters, might be considered as the only part of the country in the actual possession of the English during the three first centuries after the Invasion. In the reign of Henry VIII. Meath was divided into the counties of Meath and Westmeath, under separate Sheriffs and Coroners. Under Philip and Mary, Leix and some other districts near the river Barrow, were erected into a county, which was called the Queen's County, and the territory of Offaley, on the opposite side of the same river, was denominated the King's County. An Act of Parliament was passed in the same reign to divide all waste grounds into counties and hundreds. In virtue of this act, Annaly was erected into the county of Longford in 1565, by Sir Henry Sidney, and Connaught was at the same time divided into the counties of Clare, Galway, Sligo, Mayo, Roscommon and Leitrim ; but Clare was subsequently re-annexed to Munster. Ulster, now the most civilized of all the provinces, was the last brought into a semblance of subjection to the English institutions, as Monaghan, Tirone, Coleraine, (now Derry,) Donegall, Fermanagh, and Cavan were not formed into counties till the year 1584. Antrim and Down are supposed to have been reduced into shires by John de Courcey, as early as 1177. Wicklow, which was originally comprized in the county of Dublin, was not formed into a separate county till 1603.

With regard to the ancient government of Ireland, it appears undoubted that the same system of military

association and subordination which pervaded the greatest part of Europe for so long a period, prevailed also in this island. The dignity of Supreme Monarch was not hereditary by right of primogeniture, but elective from the *Riog-Damna*, or royal stock of the Milesian family, the person chosen being generally some near relative of the reigning prince. This mode of electing the Sovereign was denominated the law of Tanistry, whereby the oldest and most deserving of the family was supposed to be appointed to the chief government of the state. But whatever semblance of liberty and attention to the interests of the nation this plan may have possessed, the factions which it engendered proved most destructive to the peace and prosperity of the country ; an opinion which is sufficiently confirmed by the acknowledged fact, that out of two hundred of the Irish kings, one hundred and seventy died violent or premature deaths.—The subordinate chieftains were chosen in a similar manner, and their inauguration is stated to have been accompanied by the following significant ceremonies. The several estates having assembled on the top of a hill, one of the chief men arose, having in his hand a straight white wand without any knots. He then advanced to the newly elected king, and presented to him the wand with the following address : “ Receive the auspicious ensign of your dignity, and remember to imitate in your life and government the whiteness, straightness, and evenness of this rod ; to the end that no evil tongue may express

the candour of your actions with blackness, no corruption pervert your justice, nor any ties of friendship make it partial. Take, therefore, upon you in a lucky hour the government of this people, and exercise the power given you hereby with all freedom and security." The Kings of Munster were proclaimed on a large stone placed on the ascent to the church at Cashel.

It is natural to suppose that the inauguration of the Supreme Monarch must have been accompanied by a ceremonial much more august, though respecting it, previous to the introduction of Christianity, no particulars are to be found in our authentic records: it has therefore, been a matter of dispute, whether unction was used upon that occasion. That the royal crown was worn at all solemnities, not only by the Supreme Monarch but by the provincial kings, is less questionable; and on this subject we have the following observations in *Harris's Ware—Antiquities*, page 65.—“It is said by Hector Boetius, that ‘the Kings of Scotland, from the time of Fergus their first king, to the reign of Achaius, who died in 819, wore a plain crown of gold, *Militaris Valli formâ*, in the form of a military palisade.’ It is no improbable conjecture that in this practice they imitated their ancestors, the Irish Kings, Fergus being of that race. This conjecture receives some strength from the golden crown, which in the year 1692, was dug out of a bog on the top of a hill called Barnanely, or the Devil’s-bit, in the county of Tipperary,

which was supposed to have been a crown belonging to some provincial king. It weighed about five ounces, the border and the head were raised in chased work, and seemed to bear a resemblance to the close crown of the Eastern Empire, which was composed of the helmet and diadem." Mr. Harris conjectures that this crown belonged to some Irish king, before the planting of Christianity in Ireland, because it was destitute of the cross. It fell into the hands of a Mr. Joseph Comerford, who carried it into France, where it is probably still preserved. The Irish histories mention that the Queen of Cathairmor, King of Ireland, had her golden *Asion* or crown stolen from her, A. D. 174, at the Convention of Tarah. At the celebrated battle of Clontarf, the Monarch, Brien Boiromhe, was discovered by the Danes in consequence of having the royal crown on his head, which is said to have been afterwards carried to Rome by his son Donogh, when he undertook a pilgrimage to that city.

It is impossible to ascertain the precise authority which the Supreme Monarch possessed ; but if we are permitted to judge from facts, it must have been extremely circumscribed beyond the limits of his own immediate jurisdiction, and his feudatories seemed to feel no further obligation to him than to render the stipulated tribute. Each dynast exercised royal power in his own territory, and had under him as many petty kings, as there were heads of families or

septs within his territory.* Each of these retained a Brehon or lawyer in his family, who administered justice to all persons belonging to his tribe. The revenue of the Supreme Monarch as well as that of the provincial kings, was derived from the tribute of his vassal princes which was usually paid in corn, hay, or cattle;† from the produce of the mensal

* The Irish Chieftains, according to Doctor Ledwich, consisted of four classes, viz. the Righ, or provincial king; Tiarna, the chief of a large district; Toiseach, the military leader; and Flath, the ruler of a rath or raths, with a portion of land surrounding them. The province of Munster alone contained eighteen kingdoms; six of them were in the county of Cork, and four in that of Limerick.

† Some idea of the value of this part of the Sovereign's revenue, may be formed from the tribute which the Prince of Ossory was obliged to pay annually to the Ard-Righ, or Monarch of Munster, which consisted of seven hundred cows, seven hundred cloaks, and a contingent of troops when required. Many of the higher nobility held their lands by virtue of their offices in the Monarch's household. The Macnamaras were hereditary marshals, the Maclancies hereditary justices, and others falconers and huntsmen to the Monarch of Munster. The inferior chieftains were also bound to render various tributes and services to the higher rank; thus the Macarties, ancient kings of Desmond, numbered amongst their subjects, the O'Sullivan, Macdonoughs, O'Donoughs, O'Keiffes, O'Callaghans, Macauleys, &c. O'Sullivan was bound to aid Macarty with his whole strength, to give him five galloglasses, a beef, or six shillings and eight pence for every arable plough-land,—to pay half-a-crown for every ship that came to fish in his harbour—to entertain Macarty and his train whenever he came to Dunboy—to find hounds and spaniels for his use, and to render him many other services.—*Smith's Kerry, and Cox's Ireland.*

lands of the crown, and from subsidies granted by the states on pressing emergencies.

The order next in rank to the Nobility were the Fuidirs, who may be classed with the Saxon Ceorles. These rented farms on stipulated conditions, which differed in the various tribes. The lowest order in the State were the Betages, answering to the Saxon Villeins, who, it appears, from various documents still extant, were transferable with the land.

Though the form of the government was monarchical, yet the general affairs of the nation were regulated by an Assembly resembling the Saxon Witenagemot, which met triennially at the royal seat of Teamor or Tarah, in the county of Meath, to enact laws and reform abuses. The militia, we are told, was under the authority of this Assembly, and all crimes committed against its members were exempt from pardon by the Sovereign.—Other Councils are also said to have been held at Eamania and Cruachain for regulating the national police and debating subjects relative to trade and commerce. We have no reason to suppose that members were nominated to sit in those assemblies by popular election; “the requisites for a seat in them,” says Dr. Ledwich, “were a certain estate, employment at Court, or a particular summons by the prince.”

The people were governed by a code generally denominated the Brehon laws, which has been attributed to Druidical origin, though some of those

laws were evidently compiled posterior to the introduction of Christianity. The administration of the laws was entrusted to a person called Breathamh or Brehon, who sat either on the summit or acclivity of a hill, to try all cases of murder, felony, or trespass, which might be brought before him. One of these ancient judgment seats, still called the Brehon's chair, is on the hill of Kyle in the Queen's County, where the Brehon of the Fitzpatricks held his court.

We must refer such of our readers as are desirous to investigate the nature of our ancient jurisprudence, to the writings of Vallancey and other learned antiquaries on this subject, our limits only permitting us to observe, that the greatest crimes, even that of murder, were seldom punished otherwise than by fines, of which the Brehon or Judge had the eleventh part for his fee. Of all the ancient Irish institutions, Tanistry and Gavelkind, the two great laws of inheritance, appear to be the best understood.—By the first, to which we have already alluded, the right of succession among the Grandees or Dynasts was regulated, while the latter determined the partition of inferior estates; for upon every death, according to the law of Gavelkind, the possessions of the whole family were divided amongst all the sons, or nearest of kin, being males, not excluding bastards. These laws are generally considered to have greatly impeded the advancement of the people in wealth and ci-

vilization, from the little encouragement which they held out to the acquisition of property. "From this custom," says Sir James Ware, "every one of the sons, though labouring under the most shameful poverty, looked upon himself as a gentleman, and disdained to exercise husbandry or any mechanical art, though his partible share was so mean or insignificant. From hence followed many inconveniences; for the often gavelling of estates in the end, of necessity, created a poor and mean gentry; yet these poor gentlemen were so affected to their small portions of land, that they rather chose to live at home by rapine, extortion, oppression, and conspiracy, than to seek more ample fortunes abroad."*

* We have seen an Essay on the nature and influence of the ancient Irish Institutes, commonly called Brehon Laws, which has been recently written by Mr. Edward O'Reilly, Author of the "Irish English Dictionary and Grammar," &c. in consequence of a gold medal having been offered by the Royal Academy for the best Essay on this subject. Mr. O'Reilly contends, that the Irish had written laws at a very early period; that the greater part of them were brought in by the first Milesian or Ibero-Celtic colony, and that from the intermixture of this people with the Gauls and Britons who had been previously settled in the country, the Irish Institutes must exhibit a picture of Celtic manners, and throw more light on the history and antiquities of many ancient nations, and particularly those of Britain and Ireland, than can probably be obtained from any other quarter. In speaking of the law of Eric or pecuniary atonement for criminal offences, he cites various authorities to prove that the practice prevailed amongst most of the ancient nations of Europe, and he

Other customs prevailed, little less injurious, which though not enforced by law, had by long practice been brought into high repute. The first of these was termed Fostering, by which the children of the nobility and other persons of rank or wealth, were put out to nurse with the lower orders, who frequently purchased this desirable privilege, which often produced an alliance between the parties stronger than that of blood. "In consequence of this," Stanihurst remarks, "you cannot find one instance of perfidy, deceit, or treachery among them; nay they are ready to expose themselves to all manner of danger for the safety of those who sucked their mother's milk." This practice, as well as that of Gossipred or Compaternity, though they probably originated from motives of the most laudable description, were frequently productive of combinations and confederacies of the most destructive nature.

But while these usages, however injurious to the State, might be considered in the first instance, favourable to the lower orders, there were others, the necessary consequences of the feudal nature of the government, by which they were miserably oppressed. These were the exactions imposed upon them by their lords, under the names of Bonaght, (afterwards continued by the English under the terms of which it is now known as the *tithe*), and *tanistry*, which contends that the laws of Tanistry and Gavelkind, instead of being opposed to the progress of national prosperity, according to the opinion of many writers, were highly conducive to its advancement.

Coigne and Livery,) Coshery, &c. The first of them was imposed at the pleasure of the lord on his tenants for the maintenance of his soldiers, and was obtained either in specie or by sending the troops to live amongst them at free quarters. By the latter the tenant was bound, when required, to provide entertainment for the chief and his retinue. To these were added a variety of further exactions, such as finding fuel for his house, supplying victuals to his workmen, and many others, which placed the unhappy peasantry in a complete state of vassalage.

In a country circumstanced as Ireland has been from the most remote period of her history, there was but too much room for the display of military genius. Hence we are told that our native princes conferred the order of knighthood on their sons, at the early age of seven years, with great ceremony. With respect to the ancient Irish army, we are informed that their horsemen were armed with arrows and javelins, and that military chariots were used to break the enemy's ranks. The horsemen were attended by servants on foot, armed only with darts, who were charged with the care of the horses. Cambrensis says, that at the arrival of the English, the Irish used three kinds of arms, viz. short lances, darts, and broad axes, exceedingly well steeled, the latter of which they wielded with such force and dexterity, that the whole thigh of a soldier, though cased in complete armour, had been frequently lopped off by a single blow. In the middle ages, the Irish light

horse were called hobbelers, from serving on those horses called hobbies, which were then in much esteem. The Records of the Tower of London state, that in the 36th of Edward III. orders were issued for sending two thousand hobbelers out of Ireland against the Scots; and a few of them under the Earl of Kildare attended the king at the siege of Calais. The Irish infantry at the same period were of two descriptions: the first were called gallowglasses, who wore an iron head-piece, and a coat of mail. Their arms consisted of a long sword and a pole-axe with which they often did dreadful execution. The second were a kind of light infantry called kerns, who fought with darts and javelins, and occasionally with swords and a species of knife called skeyns. Another weapon of the Irish is also mentioned which was called *krann tabball*, a wooden sling with which they cast stones at a great distance with the greatest dexterity and precision. Many of the ancient Irish weapons have been dug up from time to time in various parts of the country. They appear to have been generally made of brass. Sir James Ware mentions, that he had in his possession the brass of a military axe, of rude and antique workmanship which had been dug up in a bog in the county of Leitrim. Mr. Harris saw a short sword, or skeyn, whose blade was of the same material, which was discovered at Dungan-hill in the county of Meath; and Mr. Stuart in his History of Armagh, states that Punic-fashioned brazen swords, spears,

celts, flint arrow-heads, and brazen trumpets have been dug up in the vicinity of that city.

The Irish appear to have made little use of the art of fortification, their chief confidence being placed in that impetuous fury with which they attacked the enemy, and by which they are characterized to the present day. They generally advanced to the sound of military music and the martial cry of *Farrah*, *Farrah*, which has been conjectured to mean *Fall on*, *Fall on*; *farrah*, in the Irish language, signifying *force* or *violence*. At a subsequent period, when factions universally prevailed, every chief of a sept had his peculiar war-cry, which generally terminated with the word *aboe*, which is supposed to have meant the cause of the chieftain or leader.* By others it is con-

* In Harris's Ware, we find the following curious collection of the war-cries of the principal septs or families in Ireland.

The *O'Neals'* Cry was, *Lamh-dearg-aboe*, the Cause of, or Huzza for *Red-hand*! which was his Crest.

O'Briens'—*Lamh-Laidir-aboe*, Huzza for *Strong-hand*—Crest, a dexter arm holding a naked sword.

The *Mac-Arthys'* and *Fitz-Maurices'*, was the same as the *O'Briens'*.

The *Butlers'* of the House of *Ormond*—*Butler-aboe*, Huzza for Butler!

The *Fitzgeralds'*, Earl of *Kildare*—*Crom-aboe*, Huzza for Crom! supposed to be taken from the strong castle of Crom in the county of Limerick.

The Earl of *Desmonds'*—*Sean-ait-aboe*, Huzza for the old place!

The *Bourkes'*, Earls of *Clanrickard*—*Galriagh-aboe*, Huzza for the *Red Englishman*! Richard de Bourgo, the second Earl of Ulster, having been called the Red Earl.

tured to have been an exclamation similar to our huzza! These war-cries of particular families were productive of such evils, that they were abolished by act of parliament in 1494.

Having given this brief summary of the political and military institutions of the country previous to the arrival of the English, we shall now take some notice of its religion, which from the remotest period appears to have been closely connected with the State. Druidism, the religion of all the Celtic tribes, was also that of the pagan Irish, and the Druids appear to have been not only their priests and philosophers, but their legislators and statesmen. Cæsar gives a long dissertation on their office and jurisdiction, which may be reduced to the following heads. Their functions were two-fold, one branch of which related to divine matters, by virtue whereof

The *Fitzpatricks'* or *Mac-Gill-Patrick--Gear-Laidir-aboe*, Huzza for *Strong and Sharp!* alluding to their crest—a Lion and a Dragon.

The *O'Carrolls'*—*Showet-aboe*, Huzza for the *Strong!* from whence the present motto of the family, *In Fide et in Bello fortis*, is supposed to have been derived.

Mac Swines', or *Mac-Sweenys'*—*Battailah-aboe*, Huzza for the *Noble Staff!* alluding to a part of the family arms.

The *Hiffernans'*—*Ceart-na-suas-aboe*, Huzza for the *Right* from above! their arms intimating that they had no justice to expect but from the aid of Heaven.

The *Husseys'*, Barons of Galtrim—*Cair-direach-aboe*, Huzza for *Strict Justice!*

The *O'Sullivans'*,—*Fustina-Stelley-aboe—Quere.*

The Knight of Kerry—*Farri-buidhe-aboe*, Huzza for the *Yellow Troop!*

they executed the office of the priests, and the second had respect to things temporal, whereby they had the education of youth, and were appointed judges and arbiters of all public and private controversies. They were empowered to confer rewards and punishments, and they were exempted from warfare and all public contributions. Some account of their religious doctrines and ceremonies will be found in the subjoined note.*

* The leading feature of the Druidical religion, as the name (being derived from their sylvan mode of life) imports, was, that they celebrated their religious rites in groves of oak. They appear to have paid their adoration to the Sun, the Moon, and the other celestial luminaries, and they also had their mountain and their river-gods. Jupiter, according to Colgan and other masters of the Irish language, was worshipped under the name of *Crom-cruadh*, *Cruims* being obsolete Irish for Thunder. Apollo, or the Sun, was called *Beall* or *Belin*, and his fire was lighted up on the 1st of May, which is still called Bealtine, as the great fire of Samhuin, or the moon, was lighted up on the 1st of November.

That the Druids lived and practised their ritual in groves, is strongly corroborated by the fact, that every letter of their Alphabet was called after the name of some tree. Thus *Beth* or B, was a Beech, *Lus* or L, quick-beam, *Nion* or N, the Ash tree, *Fearn* or F, the Alder tree, *Soil* or S, the Ozier, *Huath* the Hawthorn, *Dair* or D, the Oak ; and so on.

Tacitus tells us, that the Celtes in their *Sylva Sacra*, or sacred groves had a secret recess, which they called by the name of their Deity, and which they held in the utmost veneration ; and that they thought it inconsistent with the greatness of their Gods to confine them within walls, or give human representations of them. When the Christian succeeded the Druidic hierarchy, they hallowed a certain portion of this holy grove and called it *Dair* the oak ; hence *Dair Enis*, and other places,

The Druidical religion which was most probably derived from the example of the patriarchs, who worshipped the true God in groves, and under the branches of the spreading oak, degenerated first into

are so denominated. A Saint was afterwards buried here and an altar erected over him, called *Cille* or *Kil*, which denotes both a sepulchre and a church.

The ritual of the Druids has been variously represented. Some writers have asserted that it was extremely simple; that no victims bled on their altars, nor did the dagger of superstition or fanaticism glitter round idols of wood or stone; they adored the heavenly luminaries together with those deities whom they believed to preside over their groves, their fountains and rivers, but under no visible form. This mode of worship is said to have been first introduced into Ireland by the Phœnicians who had derived it from the Egyptians. Some learned men have deduced the origin of Druidism from the Sacred Writings, where the patriarchs are often mentioned as performing their religious observances under oaks, and in groves; and there can be little doubt that their Heathen descendants carried this patriarchal custom into the various countries among which they were dispersed.

The account of the religious ceremonies and practices of the Druids which has been given by Cæsar, Strabo, Tacitus, Suetonius and Pliny, differs very materially from the foregoing. Cæsar asserts that they made use of human sacrifices on their altars, and persuaded the people, that the immortal deities could not be appeased otherwise than by devoting the life of one man for the life of another. Sometimes they made up images of a monstrous size, whose limbs and parts being composed of osiers, they filled with living men, which setting on fire, they burned the enclosed victims to death. They were of opinion that the execution of those taken in theft or robbery, or convicted of any other crime, was most pleasing to the Gods; but for want of such they did not spare the innocent. Strabo adds some particulars to this account of

the adoration of the heavenly bodies, and afterwards into that of idols of gold and silver, of wood and stone, the workmanship of their own hands, accompanied by rites and ceremonies more or less cruel

Cæsar." "The Gauls (says he) never sacrifice without the "Druids. They are reported to offer men in sacrifice, and "in their sacred rites ; some they pierce with arrows, some "they impale on stakes, and building up a colossus of hay "about it, they burn to ashes in it, altogether both tame and "wild beasts of all kinds, and men." Tacitus also hints at the same custom prevailing among the Britons. "Their al- "tars (says he) are perfumed with the blood of prisoners, "and they think it lawful to consult the Gods by inspecting "into the entrails of men." Pliny asserts, that the Druids who are the Gaulish Magi, hold nothing so sacred as the mistletoe, and the tree on which it grows, if it be an oak. They select groves of this wood for religious purposes, nor do they perform any sacred office without garlands of its leaves, from which they derive their name of Druids. This is done on the sixth day of the moon, a day so much esteemed by them, that they have made their months and ages, (which consist of but thirty years) to take their beginnings from it, the moon being at that time bright enough, though not arrived at quarter her fulness. This day they call, All Heal. The mistletoe being very scarce, is collected with great ceremony. Having prepared their feast and sacrifices under the oak, two white bulls are tied to it, a priest, clad in white, ascends the tree and cuts the mistletoe, and it is received below in a white garment. They then sacrifice their victims.

But these conflicting accounts may be reconciled, if we consider that the Druids, when known to the Romans, had united the Celtic and Scythic rituals, and the followers of Odin had erected upright pillars, stone circles, and Cromleachs, within the sacred groves of the Celtes, and in these circles, the most solemn offices, civil and religious were performed. On the Cromleachs, sacrifices and divine honours were offered up

and impure. New superstitions were no doubt introduced into this country by the northern nations some centuries before the incarnation ; and we have

to their chieftains and heroes after their decease ; and on the posts and pillars, their Oghams and Runic characters were inscribed. The Danes, when they invaded this country, left those standing from their being a part of their national worship, for Wormius tells us, that they used them in their own country, either as Fora for the administration of justice, as Comititalia for the election and inauguration of kings, or as Temples for particular tribes. From what has been said, by these several writers we may perceive that the grove was Druidic and the stone circle Firbolgian.

With regard to the doctrines of the Druids, we have but scanty information. As they deemed it unlawful to commit their mysteries to writing, their traditions were delivered in ambiguous speeches and equivocal expressions. The immortality of the soul appears to have been one of their principal maxims. Cæsar and Pliny ascribe to the Druids the opinion of the Pythagorical transmigration of souls ; but though Lucan in the following lines mentions their doctrine of a second life, he gives not the slightest hint of the Metempsychosis.

—— Vobis auctoribus umbræ

Non tacitas Erebi sedes, Ditisque profundī
Pallida regna petunt : Regit idem spiritus artus,
Orbe alio, longæ, Canitis si cognita, vitæ
Mors media est.

If dying mortals' dooms they sing aright,
No ghosts descend to dwell in dreadful night,
No parting souls to grisly Pluto go,
Nor seek the dreary silent shades below !
But forth they fly immortal in their kind,
And other bodies in new worlds they find.
Thus life for ever runs its endless race,
And like a line, death but divides the space,
A step, which can but for a moment last,
A point between the future and the past.—Rowe.

every reason to believe that Ireland was reduced to a state of the lowest moral degradation, when the first preachers of Christianity reached her shores.

There is little probability that it will ever be ascertained by whom the standard of the Cross was first planted in Ireland; but it is undoubted that Christianity was introduced into the country long before the mission of St. Patrick. Ingenious arguments have been advanced to support the hypothesis, that St. Paul planted the first Christian churches both in Britain and Ireland, while it has been contended with, perhaps, still greater force, that this happy event was accomplished by missionaries from the Asiatic churches, who were probably disciples of Irenæus, Bishop of

The ancient ceremonies on interring the dead among the Irish were as follow. When the corpse was laid in its vault or burying place, the Druids performed all the solemn rites prescribed by their religion; the chief *Senachie* or antiquarian then recited aloud the pedigree of the deceased, if a man of distinction, until he came to the first source. The *Ard Fhileadh* or chief poet, in a species of poetry called *Caoine*, or lamentation, used only on such occasions, proclaimed his virtues, his bravery, and his hospitality. This was succeeded by a great cry, when every one passing by the grave, threw a stone on it. The latter custom until a few years, was practised by the Irish, particularly when any person was killed. It was a maxim of Pythagoras, "*Locus lapidibus obruendus ubi sanguis humanus sparsus est.*" These were called *Leachd* or *Carn*, and often were raised to a very large heap. This practice is supposed to have been received from the Phœnicians, and from it has probably come the Irish saying, "*Deandah* or *Dearfadh me leachd cloch dhiot.*" i. e. "I will make a heap of stones of you."

Lyons, who was the pupil of Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, who had learned of St. Ignatius, the immediate disciple of St. John. This opinion is strongly corroborated by the agreement of many of the practices of the early Christians in Ireland with the Asiatic Churches, particularly with respect to the Tonsure and the time of celebrating Easter. Authorities might be multiplied on this subject, but a few must suffice. The venerable Bede who wrote in the eighth century, states :—"In 661, a conference was held at Whitby, to determine whether the celebration of Easter, the Tonsure, and other rites should be continued after the ancient discipline of the British and Irish Churches, or the Roman rites adopted by the Anglo-Saxon church. Wilfred in the interest of Rome contended for the latter, but Colman bishop of Lindisfern, an Irishman, educated among the Culdees at Hy, supported the former. "The Easter I keep," says Colman, "I received from my elders who sent me Bishop hither; the which all our forfathers, men beloved of God, are known to have kept after the same manner; and that the same may not seem to any contemptible or worthy to be rejected, it is the same which St. John the Evangelist and the churches over which he presided observed." In reference to the same subject Mr. Grose states, in his introduction to the Monastic Antiquities, that Polycarp sent missionaries to spread the Gospel in the western and northern parts of Europe, who settled episcopacy, and gave a

pure and uncorrupted ritual to their converts. Their liturgy, cursus, or office, agreed with the Greek, and the religion of the Irish continued for ten centuries different from that of Rome, which is strong evidence of our receiving the Gospel not from Roman, but from Greek Missionaries." Bede relates various other instances in which both the British and Irish resisted with success the usurpations of the Church of Rome. Doctor O'Halloran, a learned Roman Catholic Antiquary, expresses his opinion on the same point in the following words :—" I strongly suspect that by Asiatic or African Missionaries, or through them by Spanish ones, were our ancestors instructed in Christianity, because they rigidly adhered to their customs as to Tonsure and the time of celebrating Easter. Certain it is, that St. Patrick found an hierarchy established, which for a time seemed very unwilling to acknowledge his superiority."

Whoever may have been the first propagators of the Gospel in Great Britain and Ireland, it appears to rest on indubitable authority, that Christian churches were planted in these countries previous to the fourth century, as three British Bishops assisted at the Council of Arles, A. D. 314. Irish ecclesiastics are spoken of as having visited other parts of Europe before that period, particularly St. Dermit and St. Liberius, who were succeeded by Ailbe, Kiaran, Declan, and Ibarus, in the work of disseminating the Gospel. Archbishop Ussher

says, that St. Declan was baptized by one Colman, a Christian priest, and Ailbe possibly by the same Colman. St. Jerome asserts that there was a Christian church in Ireland in the fourth century; and from St. Augustin and Ussher we learn, that Pelagius was a British monk and an eminent scholar, to whom resorted youth from Ireland for instruction.

Palladius appears to have been the first missionary sent from Rome to this country. He was ordained for this mission by Pope Celestine in the beginning of the fifth century, and according to Ussher, and other authorities, he seems to have had no greater success than the conversion of a few of the Heathen Irish and the erection of three wooden churches, and quitting the country in disgust he died soon after among the Picts. Palladius was quickly succeeded in the Irish mission by a person of much greater ability, zeal, and perseverance. We allude to St. Patrick, who is generally acknowledged to have been the instrument of diffusing the religion of the Gospel which had been already partially introduced by others, throughout the whole island. We are aware that some men of great learning and ingenuity have started doubts respecting the existence of our patron Saint, and supported those doubts with very plausible and specious arguments; but we believe these writers have been influenced chiefly by their abhorrence of that monstrous mass of disgusting fable with which

almost every Life of St. Patrick has been overloaded, and rather than take the pains to separate the chaff from the wheat, they resolved to reject his history altogether. Those who feel anxious to examine the arguments on which those doubts are founded will see them stated in all their force in Doctor Ledwich's *Antiquities of Ireland* ; but as they are entirely of a negative nature, we must yield to the generally received opinion of the Irish nation for more than eleven hundred years, supported as that opinion has been by all our early antiquarians, and in later times by men of such powerful intellect, learning and research as Ussher, Camden, Ware, Harris, O'Connor, O'Flaherty and many others.

St. Patrick, according to Ussher, was a native of North Britain, being born A. D. 372 at a place now called Kirk-patrick, not far from the city of Glasgow. He was the son of a deacon and the grandson of a priest, which proves that the clergy at that period were not prohibited from marriage. When in his sixteenth year, he was taken captive by some Irish pirates who made a descent on the coast of North Britain, and having brought him to Ireland, they sold him to Milcho, a prince of Dalriada, a territory which is now included in the counties of Antrim and Down. Here he continued six years, discharging the most servile offices ; but having at length effected his escape, he returned to his native country, having during his captivity, made himself well ac-

quainted with the language and manners of the people of Ireland.

He is said from this period to have possessed an intense desire for the conversion of the Irish; but if this were the case, he must have conceived that long study and experience were necessary to fit him for this important work, for we are told that he passed into France, and spent some years under the tuition of his uncle, St. Martin Bishop of Tours, who ordained him a deacon. He was made priest by Germanus Bishop of Auxerre; then spent some time among the Canons of the Lateran church, and afterwards dwelt with a colony of Monks in the Tuscan sea.— He was in his sixtieth year when he received information of the failure of the mission of Palladius and his subsequent death. Undismayed by these sinister events, his former desire for the conversion of the Irish seems to have revived with increased ardour; and having received his authority at Rome from pope Celestine, he set out A. D. 432 on the mission, accompanied by twenty assistants, who were men of great piety and learning. He preached in Britain for some time with success, and there he is said to have increased the number of his attendants to thirty-four. With these he passed over into Ireland and landed at the port, now called Wicklow. The first fruits of his mission was the conversion of Sinell, a Chief of Leinster, who was afterwards canonized. Being however, strongly opposed by other pagan chieftains in this quarter, he and his compa-

nions were forced to return to their ship, and after resting for a little time at an island now called Holmpatrick on the coast of Dublin, he steered his course for that part of the North, which had been the scene of his former captivity.

The county of Down was the first theatre of St. Patrick's labours in Ulster, where having converted Dichu, a chief of that country, the prince manifested his sincerity and zeal by erecting a church on the east side of the Bay of Dundrum, since denominated the Abbey of Saul. After this he and his companions preached the Gospel in various parts with wonderful success, which, under God, was greatly to be attributed to his knowledge of the language. It is also not unreasonable to suppose that some of his associates in this good work were Irish converts who had repaired to Rome and other foreign colleges to prosecute their studies. But the good missionary was convinced that to give the great work in which he was engaged general extension and perpetuity, it would be necessary to make a zealous effort for the conversion of the Supreme Monarch and his court to the faith of Christ. With this object, accompanied by two of his disciples, he repaired in the second year of his mission to Tarah, where the convention of the kingdom was then assembled. Here by the faithful preaching of the Gospel, King Leogair or Logarry, his Queen, several of the nobility, and some learned men were led to embrace Christianity, and submit to the so-

lemnities of baptism ; and this important event so greatly facilitated the further progress of the missionaries, that thousands are said to have been baptized by them in a single day. Having preached the Gospel in Connaught with similar success, he returned to Ulster, to water the seed which he had sown there, and thus he spent the first sixteen years of his mission, travelling through the three quarters of the island planting churches, and appointing suitable pastors to govern them. In the year 444, he is said to have taken possession of the territory of *Drum Sailech*, now called Armagh, which had been presented to him by Daire, the lord of that country ; and here he laid out a city, built a Cathedral, and determined on making it the Primatial See of all Ireland. In 447 he passed into Britain, which is said at that time, to have been grievously corrupted with the Pelagian and Arian heresies, and having borne his zealous testimony against those pestilent errors, he returned to Ireland with a fresh supply of learned and pious missionaries, visiting on his passage the Isle of Man, and establishing a Bishoprick there.

On his return to his new See of Armagh, he held a Synod, the Canons of which have been published by Sir James Ware. The 6th commands, that the wife of a priest, when abroad, should appear veiled, which is another proof, that the celibacy of the clergy was not then enjoined by the church of Rome. After this he again entered Leinster, and

passing the river Finglass, came for the firsttime to Bally-Ath-Cliath, now called Dublin, where preaching before King Alphin, he and all his people embraced Christianity, and were baptized in a fountain south of the city, which was afterwards called St. Patrick's Well. Near this spot a church was built on the foundation of which stands St. Patrick's Cathedral. Archbishop Ussher tells us, that he saw this fountain; that it stood near the steeple; and that a little before the year 1639, it was shut up and enclosed within a private house.

Hitherto St. Patrick had not visited Munster, because Christianity had been long preached there through the private instruction of its native missionaries, Ailbe, Declan, Kiaran, and Ibar, who appear to have had little success among the princes or higher orders; but having regulated all ecclesiastical affairs in other quarters of the island, he resolved to complete the work of his predecessors in this province. At the close of the year 448, he arrived in the city of Cashel, the royal seat of Æengus, king of Munster, where the Sovereign and all the chief men of his court became obedient to the faith; and here he is said to have held a Synod with the four Bishops who were already established in Munster, at which, constitutions were drawn up for the government of the Church; but we are told that these Bishops were only induced by the great labour and success of this zealous missionary to acknowledge his primacy. At this Synod, Emly

was erected into the Archiepiscopal See of Munster, and conferred on Ailbe, and the other Bishops had dioceses appropriated to them.

After spending seven years in Munster, he returned to the North, where in 445 he resigned the See of Armagh, and appointed Benignus his successor. In 461 he took a journey to Rome to render an account of his mission, and on his return he brought over a new supply of missionaries. The last thirty years of his life were spent chiefly in retirement in the monasteries of Saul and Ardmagh, from whence he was occasionally drawn out by the important necessities of the church. Having been permitted by Providence to see the general establishment of the Christian religion in Ireland, he concluded his ministry and his life, A. D. 493, in the Abbey of Saul, at the advanced age of one hundred and twenty years, and was interred at Downpatrick. Various works still extant are attributed to him, a list of which may be seen in Ware's *Writers of Ireland*.

Such appears to be the simple outline of the history of our Irish Apostle, divested of the mist of legendary lore in which his threescore biographers have enveloped it. We shall now take a short view of that system of religion which St. Patrick established in this country, drawing our information from the most approved authorities of both the Protestant and Roman Catholic Churches. According to Archbishop Ussher, the profession and practice of Christianity in the fifth century varied very little from

those of the present Established Churches of England and Ireland." The use of the Holy Scriptures was recommended and enjoined as every Christian's duty; the doctrine of purgatory and prayers for the dead were not heard of till the twelfth century; the adoration of images was considered impious and abominable; infants were baptized without the consecrated chrism, which is laid to the charge of the Irish by Archbishop Lanfranc; the celibacy of the clergy was unknown, which is proved by the fact, that Pope Innocent III. in the twelfth century, sent directions to his Legate to abolish the abuse prevailing in Ireland "of sons and grandsons succeeding their fathers and grandfathers in their ecclesiastical benefices." The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered in both kinds to the people; the mass was nothing more than the public service of the Church, even when prayers were only said without the celebration of the Communion. With respect to the liturgy, Archbishop Ussher proves, that there was no uniformity observed therein, but that various forms of divine service were used in divers parts of the kingdom, until the Roman use was at length brought in by Gillebert, Bishop of Limerick, in the twelfth century.*

Previous to the same period, the authority of the

* In proof of his statements, Archbishop Ussher quotes the authority of many of the early writers, as St. Chrysostom, Sedulius, Claudius, Bede, Abbot Jonas, Nennius, Probus, Adamnanus, and Cogitosus who all flourished between the fourth and the twelfth centuries.

Roman Pontiff was scarcely known in Ireland. The Christian church acknowledged Christ only for its foundation. The Archbishops and Bishops were recommended on every vacancy by the clergy and laity of the diocese to the King, who had a negative in the appointment. They only entertained in those days that respect and veneration for the Bishops of Rome to which their piety, learning and high station might have entitled them; but it does not appear from any authentic documents, that until the twelfth century visitations of the clergy were held in the name of the Pope, that any indulgences were sought at his hands, or that the people acknowledged his infallibility—on the contrary it is proved on the authority of St. Bernard, that Gillebert bishop of Limerick, was the first who exercised the legatine authority of the See of Rome in Ireland about the year 1110.*

Dr. O'Halloran, an eminent Roman Catholic writer, entertained similar views of the former independence of the church of Ireland with Archbishop Usher, as will appear from the following extract.

* The independent character of the Irish Clergy at this period is further confirmed by Mosheim, who speaks of them in the following highly honourable terms.---“That the Hibernians were lovers of learning and distinguished themselves in those times of ignorance by the culture of the sciences beyond all other European nations, travelling the most distant lands with a view to improve and communicate their knowledge, is a fact with which we have been long acquainted, as we see them in the most authentic records of antiquity discharging with the highest reputation and applause the functions of Doctors in France,

the fourth century. During the Decian persecution

“The Irish Church,” says the Doctor, “preserved privileges and immunities peculiar to itself. Archbishops and Bishops were appointed without consulting Rome: bishops were multiplied at the will of the metropolitans; they consecrated bishops for foreign missions, and those missionaries, in many instances of discipline, opposed the mandates of Rome; as Columb in Scotland, Finian and Colman in England, Collumbanus in France, St. Gall in Germany, &c.” “For more than five centuries after the death of St. Patrick,” says the same writer, “we scarce trace any vestiges of a correspondence between Rome and Ireland, and in this interval in many instances we find that Rome looked

Germany and Italy, both during this and the following century.

‘But that these Hibernians were the first teachers of Scholastic Theology in Europe, and so early as the eighth century illustrated the doctrines of religion by the principles of philosophy, I learned but lately from the testimony of Benedict, Abbot of Aniane in the province of Languedoc, who lived in this period, and some of whose productions are published by Baluzius in the 5th tome of his *Miscellanea*; and he adds that the Irish, who in the eighth century were known by the name of Scots, were the only Divines who refused to dishonour their reason by submitting it implicitly to the dictates of authority. Naturally subtle and sagacious they applied their philosophy to the illustration of the truths and doctrines of religion, a method which was almost generally abhorred and exploded in all other nations. This subtlety and sagacity, enabled them to comprehend with facility the dialectic art, and their profound knowledge of the Greek language contributed materially to the same end. This made them view with contempt the pitiful compendiums of theology extracted from the Fathers, and which the unlearned ecclesiastics of other countries accepted as oracles.”

upon several of our missionaries with a jealous eye; for although these great immunities of the Irish Church were of the utmost consequence to the cause of Christianity, and contributed to spread its doctrine in a most rapid manner all over Europe, yet in the eleventh century when Paganism was totally abolished, these powers seemed too great, and to endanger the peace of the church; Councils and Synods were therefore held from time to time, in order to bring the Church of Ireland to the same subordination to Rome as those of every other part of Europe."

The prevalence of domestic hostility, the feuds and bloodshed which mark the history of Ireland as fully after the introduction of Christianity as before that event, afford us too much reason to believe that the doctrines of the Gospel had not greater influence over the great mass of the people than over the neighbouring nations. Ireland, therefore, cannot be indebted to the peculiar sanctity of her people for the title of the Island of Saints by which she was distinguished. It probably had for its foundation the vast number of monasteries and religious houses which were established in every part of the country, and which from the remote situation of the island, and the protection which these institutions enjoyed from the native princes, became secure and tranquil asylums to the learned and pious from various countries of Europe. The monastic life is said to have had its origin in the fourth century. During the Decian persecution

many pious men, to escape the fury of the storm, fled to mountains and deserts, where they passed a life of solitude in devout and heavenly contemplations. Of these Paul and Antonius were the most famous, and St. Jerome calls them the fathers of the Christian hermits. Athanasius was compelled to expatriate himself by the rage of the Arians about the middle of the fourth century, and he carried with him to Rome the institutions of the Egyptian monks. The system spread with astonishing rapidity all over the west of Europe, and from this source is supposed to have originated the celebrated monastic order of the Culdees in this country during the sixth century.—Various conjectures have been formed respecting the etymology of the name, but it was most probably derived from *Ceile-de*, a servant of God. Monachism had previously made some progress in Ireland, and possessed many learned seminaries, as we find that Columbus, the founder of the Culdees, studied under St. Finian at the monastery of Clonard early in that century.

In the year 546, Columba founded the monastery of Durrogh in the King's County: by the rules which he formed for his Monks, they must have been as remarkable for their erudition as for the sanctity of their lives; and the strongest testimonials to the merits of the Culdees are to be found in the writings of Bede, Lhoyd, Ussher, and Sir James Dalrymple. Columba's powerful eloquence and zeal for religion, raised his character so high in the estima-

tion of his countrymen, that he was sometimes called upon to take an active part in state affairs ; but the result of a war in the origin of which he had some concern, is said to have so sensibly affected him, that he became a voluntary exile from his native country, and went on a mission to the unconverted Picts, whom he succeeded in bringing over to the faith of Christ. Soon after this he founded a noble monastery in the island of Hy (now Iona) which with that of Diarmach or Durrogh in Ireland, became the parent of many similar establishments in both countries. At Hy, Columba fixed the seat of his spiritual jurisdiction, and here he finished his life and labours, A. D. 597. To distinguish him from others of the same name, he was called Colum-celle, from being the father of above one hundred monasteries. He has been accused of being tinctured with no small portion of that pride and arrogance which have been too often found connected with the clerical character ; but Bede, though closely attached to the See of Rome, bears the following candid and striking testimony to the character of his followers, the Culdees : “ he left successors renowned for much continence, the love of God, and regular observance.” And here he adds what proves beyond a doubt, the practice of the ancient Irish Christians to be in conformity with the rule of the Asiatic Churches respecting the celebration of Easter : “ It is true they followed uncertain rules in the observation of the great festival, as having none to bring them the

synodical decrees for the keeping of Easter, by reason of their being seated so far from the rest of the world ; therefore they only practised such works of charity and piety, as they could learn from the prophetic, evangelical, and apostolical writings." We need no stronger proof of the purity of the doctrines and practices of the Culdees, who for some centuries preserved the independence both of the British and the Irish churches. The papal power, however, at length prevailing in England in the seventh century, the Saxon Prince Oswy expelled the Culdees from their settlements on the island of Lindisfern, and replaced them by Benedictines. In the year 717, Adamnan, the Culdean Abbot of Hy, was led to apostatize, and thus expired that illustrious seminary.* They preserved their establishments in Ireland to a much later period, but in the course of time so many breaches were made upon their rights, that they lost all their privileges, and retained little more than the name of their former celebrity. They suffered much from the northern invaders, their famous Abbey at Bangor, founded by Congall, with many others, having become a prey to the fury of the

* The Culdees, according to Bede and other authorities, lived by the labour of their own hands ; they were permitted to marry, but not to keep their wives in their own houses. They possessed many things in common, but other matters were divided at their decease amongst their wives and children. In each Culdee College, there were originally twelve brethren, one of whom was the Prior by election.

Danes and Norwegians. Giraldus Cambrensis states that settlements of the Culdees were to be found in many parts of the island at the arrival of the English ; and he particularly mentions the Abbey of Monaincha, situated in an island between Roscrea and Borris in Ossory. Archbishop Usher tells us, that even in his time, priests called Culdees existed in the neighbourhood of Armagh, whose president was styled Prior of the Culdees, and that they possessed considerable property in that neighbourhood. It is probable that when the Church of Ireland in the twelfth century submitted to the See of Rome, the government of the Culdees became subject to the ecclesiastical hierarchy of the country.

In other respects, our annals afford us but scanty information regarding the progress of religion in Ireland, from the death of St. Patrick to the invasion of the English. We are indeed informed that our Apostle established three hundred and sixty-five churches, over whom he placed as many bishops, and ordained three thousand presbyters : but of his successors in the Primacy we can learn little more than their names, and the sufferings of many of them from the cruelties of the Danes and Norwegians. The numerous prelates ordained by St. Patrick could not have been similar to our diocesan bishops, but it is generally supposed that one was appointed to each church, and that they occasionally acted as itinerant preachers. Besides these, there were suffragan or assistant bishops called Comor-

bans, who generally succeeded their principals. The ancient Irish clergy derived a great part of their support from donations of cattle, &c. made by the people, and each church had certain lands annexed to it by the founders, and a number of peasants who were then transferable with the lands, and bound to do certain services for their lords. To the Corbes and Erenachs were entrusted the temporal affairs of the church. They were bound to collect the bishop's rents, to maintain hospitality, and relieve the poor. They were bound also to manure, cultivate, and reside on the Termon, or church lands, and they were prohibited from alienating them to a stranger.

That the Irish Church continued independent of the Papal See for so long a period, is to be attributed not only to the attachment of the Hierarchy and the Culdees to their ancient faith, but to the unwillingness of the princes and great lords to surrender the patronage of the sees and benefices which had been endowed out of their estates. However, from the period when Rome assumed the supremacy of the Anglo-Saxon Church, the seeds of disunion were sown in Ireland ; many of the monks were brought over to the papal cause ; and the Saxon king Egfrid was excited by Augustine, the missionary, to compel the Irish to submission by ravaging their country. But the innovation appears to have made little progress until the Ostmen established themselves in Ireland. When they embraced Christianity, it was not that of the Irish, but of the

Anglo Saxons ; they sent their bishops to be consecrated by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and his submission to the English Church is said to have first suggested to the English Monarchs the acquisition of Ireland through the donation of the Pope. These efforts to subvert the independence of the Irish Church did not meet with complete success until the year 1139, when Malachy O'Morgair, after resigning the Primacy to Gelasius, repaired to Rome to solicit two palls, one for Armagh and the other probably for Cashel, which had been lately constituted a metropolitan church. Pope Innocent received Malachy with great distinction, placed his mitre on his head, presented him with the stole and maniple which he used in the celebration of Divine Service, and appointed him Legate of Ireland ; but he informed him, at the same time, that due solemnity must be used in granting the palls, which should be requested by the universal suffrage of an Irish Council.

Malachy on his return held many Synods, by virtue of his office as Legate of the Papal See, at which such changes were made in the discipline of the Church as caused it to approximate more nearly to that of Rome. Encouraged by his friend and biographer St. Bernard, he endeavoured strenuously to abolish matrimony amongst the clergy, and he introduced the Cistercian Monks, the prime supporters of the papal authority, into Ireland, who be-

fore the close of the 12th century, possessed more than forty Abbeys and Nunneries in this country.*

In the year 1148 the Primate Gelasius, assisted by Malachy in the quality of Papal Legate, convened a Synod at Holm-Patrick, at which were present fifteen bishops, two hundred presbyters, and a great number of inferior Clergy. At this Synod

* Perhaps no country in Europe abounded more in Monastic Institutions than Ireland, during what have been emphatically called the dark ages. They consisted of the various Orders of St. Benedict, St. Augustine, St. Victor, St. Dominick, St. Francis, St. Bernard or Cisterrians, Carmelites, Knights Templars, and Knights of St. John. The List given by Ware of Abbies, Monasteries, &c. amounts to 568. The following general abstract may not prove uninteresting to our readers :—

LEINSTER.		ULSTER.	
ABBIES, NUNNERIES, &c.		ABBIES, NUNNERIES, &c.	
County of Dublin.....	24	County of Armagh....	6
———— Kildare.....	26	———— Down	20
———— Wicklow...	6	———— Antrim.....	15
———— Wexford...	27	———— Derry	8
———— Kilkenny...	16	———— Donegall...	24
———— Carlow.....	8	———— Tyrone.....	5
———— King's.....	17	———— Fermanagh	6
———— Queen's....	13	———— Monaghan	3
———— Meath	33	———— Cavan.....	5
———— Westmeath	19		
———— Longford...	15		
———— Louth.....	19		
	————223		————92
MUNSTER.		CONNAUGHT.	
County of Waterford	17	County of Galway....	45
———— Cork.....	36	———— Mayo.....	28
———— Limerick...	28	———— Roscommon	24
———— Tipperary..	34	———— Sligo.....	20
———— Kerry.....	10	———— Leitrim	2
———— Clare.....	9		———— 119
	———— 134		
		Total.....	568

it was resolved to establish two other Archbishoprics, viz. Dublin and Tuam. In 1151, Pope Eugene III. despatched Cardinal Paparo as his Legate to Ireland with palls for the four Archbishops, which were delivered with great ceremony at a Synod convened at Kells, in March of the following year, at which twenty-three Irish prelates were present. In this Council a certain number of Suffragan Bishops was allotted and subjected to each Archbishop,* some measures were adopted for the

* The number of Bishoprics in Ireland at the time of the Synod of Kells, appears to have amounted to thirty-four, which were placed under the four Archbishops in the following order :—

Under the Archbishop of ARMAGH.

Connor,	}	now united.	Louth, now Clogher.	}	now united.
Down,			Ardagh, now united to Kilmore.		
Clonard,	}	now Meath.	Raphoe,		
Kells,			Rathlure,		
Duleek,			Derry,		

In this distribution are wanted, the Sees of Dromore and Kilmore.

Under the Archbishop of DUBLIN.

Glendalough,	}	now united to Dublin.	Ossory,
Ferns,			Kildare.
Leighlin,	}	now united.	

Under the Archbishop of CASHEL.

Killaloe,	}	now united.	Roscrea, now annexed to Killaloe.	}	now united.
Kilfenora,			Waterford,		
Limerick,	}	now united.	Lismore,	}	now united.
Ardfert,			Cork,		
Inniscatty,	}	divided between Limerick & Killaloe	Ross,	}	now united.
Emly, annexed to Cashel.			Cloyne,		

extirpation of simony and usury, and for the establishment of tythes by papal authority. The annals of St. Mary's Abbey call Gelasius the first Archbishop of Armagh, as he was the first who used the pall.

Christian, Bishop of Lismore, who had been for some time a Cistercian monk in the Abbey of Clairvalle under St. Bernard, was now constituted the Pope's Legate in Ireland, and in that capacity he presided at a Synod held in the Abbey of Mellifont in 1157. Mortogh IV. Monarch of Ireland, with many of the Irish princes attended this assembly, at which Dunchad O'Melaghlin, king of Meath, was excommunicated and deposed, and his territories given to his brother Dermot. The union of the Irish Church with that of Rome seems now to have been completed, for we find that on the death of Gregory, Archbishop of Dublin, his successor, Laurence O'Toole, was consecrated by the Primate Gelasius, being the first prelate of that See who was consecrated in Ireland; for before this they as well as the prelates of Waterford and Limerick, as already hinted at, received their consecration from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

One of the first objects of Henry II. after his ar-

Under the Archbishop of TUAM.

Mayo, annexed to Tuam.	} now united.	Clonfert,
Killala,		Kilmacduagh,
Achonry,		Clonmacnois, since transferred
Roscommon, now Elphin.		to Armagh.

There were other Episcopal Sees in Ireland before the arrival of Cardinal Paparo, as Trim, Sletty, Lusc, Ardmore, Ardsrath, Slane, Saigre, &c.

rival in this country was to obtain the sanction of the Irish Clergy to his ambitious designs. For this purpose a Synod was convened in his name, which assembled at Cashel in 1172, Christian, Bishop of Lismore, the Pope's Legate, presiding upon that occasion. Several of the English Clergy attended on the part of Henry, and Brompton, Abbot of Jervall in Yorkshire informs us, that the King received from every Archbishop and Bishop charters with their seals pendent, whereby they constituted him and his heirs Kings and Lords of Ireland for ever ; to which Roger Hoveden adds, that the King sent a transcript of these charters to Pope Alexander, who by his apostolic authority confirmed the kingdom to him and his heirs. Leland, however, expresses some doubt, whether this was a general assembly of the Clergy, adding that the Primate Gelasius certainly did not attend, excusing himself on account of age and infirmities, and that the prelates of Ulster followed the example of their Metropolitan ; but Giraldus Cambrensis, in opposition to the Irish annalists asserts, that Gelasius came to Dublin soon after, and gave his full assent to the transactions and ordinances of this Synod.

The professed design of the King in convening this assembly was to fulfil the wishes of Pope Adrian, as expressed in his Bull, to eradicate from the kingdom all vice and impiety, and to restore the purity of the ecclesiastical constitution ; but the ordinances passed for this purpose seem very inadequate to such im-

portant objects. They consisted of a prohibition of marriage within certain degrees of consanguinity---established an exemption of church lands from secular exactions---that children should be baptized at the font, and catechized without the church doors—that tythes of cattle, corn and other profits should be paid to the parish church—that all true sons of the Church should have power by will to distribute their effects in due proportion between their wives and children; and that every Christian should, after his death, be reverently brought to the church and decently buried. Such appears to have been the nature of the reform which was contemplated in the agreement made between King Henry and Pope Adrian for subjugating Ireland.

From this period to the Reformation our Ecclesiastical History possesses little interest. The particulars which have come down to us consist almost wholly of disputes between the Pope and the Kings of England respecting the appointment of bishops—remonstrances of the Irish clergy against the admission of foreigners into their Church; and quarrels of long duration, and which sometimes broke out into acts of violence, between the Archbishops of Armagh and Dublin respecting precedence. We have scarcely any foundation on which to rest a conjecture with regard to the influence of religion on the domestic habits of the population during this long period; but if we may be permitted to judge by political events, it must have been very limited. Indeed, a blind sub-

mission to the Church appears to have been then considered the acmé of sanctity, not only in this country but throughout the Christian world. Nor did the attempt to establish the Reformation in Ireland introduce all that improvement in morals or civilization, which might have been expected from the superior purity of its doctrines and its institutions.—From the distracted state of a country so long torn by factions, politics necessarily mingled themselves with the more important question of religion, and to the distinctive epithets of *Sassenach* and *Mere Irish*, were now superadded those of *Protestant* and *Catholic*. With few exceptions, the Irish Clergy opposed the alterations in religion, and they whose predecessors had, four centuries before, yielded the most implicit submission to the English monarch at the mandate of the Pope, whose supremacy they had but lately acknowledged, now preferred expulsion from their benefices and their monasteries to renouncing that supremacy. During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the government was occupied in watching the latent movements of a domestic enemy, an *imperium in imperio*, which broke forth in fearful ebullitions whenever encouraged by foreign aid or the weakness of England. Every abortive attempt of this nature was followed by confiscations and penal statutes, which, though they produced the intended effect of suppressing open resistance to the established religion and government by weakening the power of the discontented, were naturally calculated

to perpetuate the recollection of those bitter feuds to which they owed their origin. More than a century of comparative domestic peace encouraged the government to remove the most galling of those disabilities on account of religion under which the majority of the population suffered ; but much yet remains to be effected before the wounds of our suffering country shall be completely healed. And may we not hope that the present rapid progress of education, so long neglected, will mainly contribute to that happy result. It may indeed be occasionally interrupted by the croaking of political discontent or the intemperance of religious bigotry ; but as ‘ knowledge is power,’ so the inculcation of it must be the first step to the melioration of a state, because it qualifies the people for the enjoyment of civil rights, and gives ability for maintaining them.

LITERATURE, POETRY, AND MUSIC.

The origin of the Irish language, as well as every other particular connected with the ancient history of Ireland has been for a long period a subject of controversy, giving rise to conjectures and hypotheses without end. Keating and others of our ultra-antiquarians present us with the following entertaining fable on the subject: Feniusa Farsaidhe, king of Scythia, the son of Magog, and great grandson of Noah, desirous of becoming master of the seventy-two languages created at the confusion of Babel, sent seventy-two

persons to learn them, and he established an University near Athens, over which he, Gadel, and Caoith presided. These, we are told, formed the Greek, Latin, and Hebrew letters, while Gadel was particularly directed to digest the Irish language into various dialects to be spoken by different classes of the people, and **this** language was brought here by the Milesians. This **is** given on the authority of Forchern Mac Deag, a poet, who lived many years before the birth of Christ. Others maintain almost the antipodes of this opinion, denying that the Irish had the use of letters before the coming of St. Patrick. It is urged by Innes and Macpherson, that they had no terms to express those matters which related to literature, but **such** as are evidently derived from Latin words, and **that** *lietar*, *leabher*, *leagmi*, *scribmi*, *pehn*, &c. are so many derivations from *litera*, *liber*, *lego*, *scribo*, *penna*, &c. Therefore they assert that the Irish had neither the use of letters, books or pens, until the Latin language was introduced, upon a supposition that the things and the terms must have come into use at the same time. But difficulties equally strong may be opposed to this hypothesis; for the Irish have terms to express these and several other matters relating to literature totally foreign to the Latin; thus *fiodh* signifies a letter; *cion*, a book; *ealadh*, science; *creath*, history; *seanchus*, philosophy, &c. Thus the foundation of this argument is at once removed.*

* The sure method of discerning those original Celtic words which resemble the Latin in any European dialect of the Celtic

It is natural to suppose that if letters were first introduced into Ireland by the Christian Missionaries, and that there were no written historical records before their arrival in this island, they would have been communicated through the medium of the Roman characters. But the resemblance between the old Irish and Greek characters is very striking both in formation and in sound. The number of Greek letters

nations, is by considering, in the first place, if they are significant either of such ideas or objects of the senses as no language can want words to express from the beginning ; because no people, enjoying all the senses, could at any time or in any country be strangers to such objects or ideas, and consequently none could be destitute of words to distinguish them. It should secondly be considered, if such words be the only appellations of their respective objects or ideas used in the language either in common parlance, or in the old writings, for signifying the things to which they were appropriated. All words in any of the Celtic dialects, which can stand the test of these two qualities, may with full assurance be regarded as mere Celtic, though probably changed in some degree from their primitive form and pronunciation, and not derived from the Latin, whatever resemblance or affinity they may bear to words of the same signification in that language. The following are pure original Celtic, notwithstanding their close and striking affinity with Latin words of the same signification, which are rather derivatives of the Celtic words that are generally monosyllables. But the Latin words corresponding with the Celtic monosyllables, consist generally of two syllables, as those that agree in signification with the Celtic words of two syllables, are generally of three or four. This, according to the rules of Etymology, evinces them to be derivations from the more simple radicals of the Celtic, of which the *Lingua Prisca* of the *Aborigines*, the mother of the Latin, was only a dialect. And by comparing the Greek as well as the Latin with the Irish, in

were but sixteen, and there were originally but sixteen Irish characters, the letter P. having been introduced in after-times. The Greeks used many abbreviations, so do the Irish to this day. The ancient Irish Alphabet began with the consonants, *Beith*, *Luis*, *Nuin*, &c. and the Greek Alphabet began in the same order, with Beta, Lambda, Nu.

Herodotus, in his book called *Terpsichore*, says, "that the Greeks had their letters from the Phœnicians, and used them with little variation: which afterwards appearing, those letters were called Phœ-

words wherein the three languages agree in affinity, it will appear that both the Latin and the Greek are derived from the Celtic words, which are expressive of ideas or of objects for which no language can want words, even in its uncultivated state.

For Example.

IRISH.	GREEK.	LATIN.
<i>De & Dia,</i>	THEOS,	<i>Deus</i> , God.
<i>Bith & Beatha,</i>	BIOTE,	<i>Vita</i> , Life.
<i>Bo,</i>	BOUS,	<i>Bos</i> , a Cow or Ox.
<i>Cainneal,</i>	KANDELA,	<i>Candela</i> , a Candle.
<i>Ceir,</i>	KEROS,	<i>Cera</i> , Wax.
<i>Cos,</i>	POUS,	<i>Pes</i> , a Foot.
<i>Cu,</i>	KUON,	<i>Canis</i> , a Hound or Dog.
<i>Faidh,</i>	PHATES,	<i>Vates</i> , a Prophet.
<i>File or Fileadh,</i>	PHILOSOPHOS,	<i>Philosophus</i> , a Philosopher or Poet.
<i>Feall,</i>	PHELEO,	<i>Fallo</i> , to Deceive.
<i>Grainne,</i>	GRANON,	<i>Granum</i> , a Grain.
<i>La & Lo,</i>	LION,	<i>Lux</i> , a Day or Day-light.
<i>Lach or Loch,</i>	LACCUS,	<i>Lacus</i> , a Lake or Pool of Water.
<i>Lann,</i>	LOGCHE,	<i>Lancea</i> , a Lance or Sword.
<i>Lin,</i>	LENON,	<i>Lenum</i> , Flax.
<i>Mathair,</i>	METER,	<i>Mater</i> , a Mother.
<i>Mil,</i>	MELI,	<i>Mel</i> , Honey.
<i>No,</i>	NEOS,	<i>Novus</i> , New.
<i>Nucht,</i>	NUX,	<i>Nox</i> , Night.
<i>Pian,</i>	POINE,	<i>Pæna</i> , Pain.
<i>Sac,</i>	SACCOS,	<i>Saccus</i> , a Sack or Bag.
<i>Speir,</i>	SPHAIRA,	<i>Sphæra</i> , the Sky.
<i>Taibhle,</i>	TAULE,	<i>Tabula</i> , a Table.
<i>Tarbh,</i>	TAUROS,	<i>Taurus</i> , a Bull.
<i>Tiarna,</i>	TURANNOS,	<i>Tyrannus</i> , a Lord or King.
<i>Toil,</i>	THELEMA,	<i>Voluntas</i> , the Will.

nician as they ought to be, the Phœnicians having brought them into Greece.” And as we are told the Phœnician and the Hebrew languages were the same, so are the ancient Hebrew letters the same with the Phœnician. It was in the time of St. Patrick, that the Irish Alphabet began with the vowel A. The sounds in the three Alphabets are very much alike, as well as the formation of the letters : thus—

<i>Irish.</i>	<i>Greek.</i>	<i>Hebrew or Phœnician.</i>
Ailen,	Alpha,	Aleph.
Beith,	Beta,	Beth.
Gort,	Gamma,	Gimmel.
Duir,	Delta,	Daleth.

The Aleph in the Phœnician language signifies an Ox, and the Ailen in the Irish a fir tree : in the old Greek as well as in the old Irish, a single letter stood for an entire word, “ a circumstance (says O’Halloran) as far as I know, not to be found in other languages.” Thus *Alpha* in Greek signified greatness, and in Irish it signified a hill or ascent. The Greek O meant roundness, the Irish, an ear. The Greeks, we are told, made use of a mode of writing borrowed from the Phœnicians, called *Bonstrophe-don*, the meaning of which is ploughing with oxen in parallel lines from right to left, and from left to right. The *Cioun fa Eite*, or head of the ridge, and *Cor fa Chasan*, or reaper’s path, “ still met with,” says O’Halloran, “ in numbers of old Irish parchments, seem to have been formed on exactly the same plan, and written in the same manner, so that

we may justly infer that the old Irish is derived from the Phœnician as well as the Greek, and not from the Latin. The following specimen shews a striking similarity between the Carthaginian and Irish languages, as quoted by General Vallancey from one of the plays of Plautus, an author, who wrote during the second Punic war.

CARTHAGINIAN.	IRISH.
Neipsi et in este dum et a larn na cestin um.	Neisi et in eiste dam et a lairn na centin um.

Hear me and judge, and do not too hastily question me.

The remains of the Punic language preserved in the copies of this play, are esteemed a very curious piece of antiquity.

It is very difficult to read the old Irish manuscripts, they abound with so many contractions, subject to no rule; and this was done to spare labour and vellum. As the Irish, like the Greeks smoothen and soften the consonants into aspirates, the best and truest way of reading it is by pronouncing the sound of the vowels, and suppressing the consonants, for the most part, in each word.*

* The ancient Irish made use of other characters called Ogham which are to be seen in several old manuscripts. But it seems the Ogham Craobh or branch Ogham was generally used, as many monumental inscriptions have been discovered in that character. The letters are represented by strokes and curves, drawn on both sides, and across a given line. The following translation of an old Irish verse describes the manner in which it is formed.

For mystic lines in days of yore,
A branch and fescue the Druids bore;
By which their science, thoughts, and art,
Obscurely veiled, they could impart.

The antiquity of Irish Literature has, however, been strongly controverted by writers of great learning and research, whose opinions have been col-

For an accurate and beautiful description of the different kinds of Oghams and the Callan inscription, we would refer our readers to the plate annexed to page 328 of Dr. Ledwich's Antiquities. If the eastern and western Runes and Oghams, were all posterior to the invention of letters as Dr. Ledwich thinks, we must admit that the Phœnician language was first introduced into this Island at a very remote period, and that Odin or Woden, as we learn from the Enquiries into the Antiquities of the Runic Language and Learning, was the first inventor, or at least the first engraver of the Runic characters, and that these Runes were a long time in use upon materials, almost imperishable ; for instead of bark, wax, or parchment, they were engraven upon stone, or planks of oak, upon artificial pillars, and upon natural rocks. Odin was the first and great hero of the Western Scythians, and led a vast multitude of the Goths into the northern and western parts of Europe : he appointed, we are told, twelve men of superior wisdom and piety over religious ceremonies and the administration of justice ; he performed, as he pretended, unheard of prodigies, by his charms and enchantments, and effected things so incredible by means of those Runes, Oghams and incantations, that he acquired a name the most renowned for wisdom and power. As he appointed a secret council over religion and magic, who were called Runer and Adelruner ; and as Rune and Ogham, Dr. Ledwich supposes, are perfectly equivalent in sense, and had the same origin, the Druids we may believe committed their Rune, which in the Irish language signifies a secret mystery, to those occult characters, so highly revered and so easily engraven on planks and pillars. The Irish are said to have adopted the notion of the magical power of letters from the Northerns, and the magic Runes they called Oghams. Fiacra was mortally wounded at the battle of Caonry, his funeral *leacht* or stone was erected ; and on his tomb was inscribed his Ogham name.

lected and arranged by Dr. Ledwich in his chapter on the Ogham Characters and Alphabetical Elements of the ancient Irish ; and from these he concludes with considerable confidence, that letters were introduced into Britain by the Romans after they had subjugated that island, and that the Britons communicated them soon after to their brethren in Ireland. He treats their importation by the Celto-Scythian colony from Spain, as a puerile figment founded on the traditions of the Bards, who bring their ancestors from the East. The voice of antiquity, he asserts, is silent as to Druidic letters having been used in this island ; and he suspects the passage in which Cæsar says they existed, to have been an interpolation of Julius Celsus. The learned Doctor, however, admits that there is no part of literary history more obscure than the formation of letters ; and we conceive, where inferences and probabilities constitute the only foundation, the opinions of his opponents rest, at least, on equal authority.

The absence of authentic written documents of a date prior to the Christian era is the strongest argument that can be brought to prove that Literature did not flourish amongst the Pagan Irish. But the supporters of the contrary opinion endeavour to account for this by asserting that St. Patrick destroyed one hundred and eighty volumes of the Discipline of the Druids, with probably many other books, as it is very natural to suppose that he

would deem it an important duty of his mission to root out every vestige of paganism.*

But however discordant the conjectures of our antiquarians may be with respect to the state of knowledge in Ireland at this very remote period, there is a very general agreement amongst them that the country obtained a high literary character soon after the establishment of Christianity. For this Ireland was in a great measure indebted to the ravages committed by the Huns, the Vandals and other barbarians in various parts of Europe from the third to the sixth century, which converted the most fertile and populous provinces into deserts. Famine, pestilence, and every evil which can afflict mankind marched in their train, and, to use the words of Dr. Robertson, "If a man were called to fix upon the period in the history of the world, during which the condition of the human race was most calamitous and afflicting, he would without hesitation, name that which elapsed from the death of Theodo-

* The Account of Irish Writers in Harris's Ware, enumerates several who had flourished before the Christian era. To the Monarch Ollamh-Fodlah, who is said to have founded a University at Tarah, is attributed a History of all the memorable transactions of his Royal Ancestors from Feniusa Farsaidh, King of Scythia, to his own times A. M. 3276; and King Ollioll Mac-Slanoll is said to have written the Antiquities of Ireland about fifty years after. Forchern, Moran the Just, the Monarchs Feredach Fion, Cormac Ulfadha, Cairbre Leifeachair, with many others, are stated by Mr. O'Flaherty to have published works on the laws, which at that period appear to have been the principal subjects of study.

sius the Great, A. D. 395, to the establishment of the Lombards in Italy, A. D. 571." During this calamitous period a multitude of persons from every part of Europe fled to this island both for protection and learning, and the number was increased by the ravages of the Anglo-Saxons in England.

About this time several Universities were founded in Ireland, of which Lismore, Armagh, and Clonard appear to have been the most famous. The college of Lismore was established by St. Carthag, and here the immortal Alfred is said to have acquired that knowledge by which his name has been rendered illustrious through all succeeding ages. Bonaventure Moronus, in his Life of Cathaldus, Bishop of Tarentum, speaks of the Schools of Lismore, as having been frequented by students from every part of the European continent. Twenty churches are said to have been there at one time, of which the ruins of seven were discernible not many years since; but of the ancient glory of this once celebrated place no vestige now remains but the Cathedral and the Castle.

The College of Armagh is stated to have been founded by St. Patrick, and to have ranked for many centuries amongst the most celebrated seminaries in Europe, having at one period, no less than seven thousand students within its walls. Even Doctor Ledwich, sceptical as he is on all subjects connected with the ancient literary fame of Ireland, expresses his astonishment at the advances which learning had made

in this island during the fifth and sixth centuries ; but he attributes it to the emigration of the British clergy, who, “ here found a secure asylum from the din of war, and those broils so hated by peaceful and studious men.” This College was patronized by the Irish Monarchs, and even so late as 1169, Roderick O’Connor made a grant to its professors. Gildas, a disciple of St. Patrick, and the most ancient of the British historians, is said to have presided over it, and amongst its students are enumerated Swithbert, the Apostle of Westphalia ; Willibrod, Archbishop of Utrecht ; Feargall, the philosopher and mathematician, known on the continent by the name of Virgil and Solivagus, Bishop of Saltzburg ; Albin, the friend of Charlemagne, and Clement, Provost of the University of Paris.

The School or Academy of Clonard was founded by St. Finan about a hundred years after the introduction of Christianity, and it was resorted to by a vast concourse of foreigners. The venerable Bede tells us, that “ many of the English nation of all ranks and denominations in the time of Bishop Finan, retired to Ireland, that they might devote themselves in a more effectual manner, either to the reading and studying Divinity, or to a more strict and continent life.”

The studies pursued in the Irish Colleges were Theology, Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, Arithmetic, Music, Geometry, and Astronomy. Of these, the last seven were methodically comprized and digested in a

disquisition which was written by Martianus Capella, in the fifth century. Johannes Scotus Erigena wrote comments on this Author, which are still extant. Nor was the study of their vernacular tongue neglected by the Irish. Cormac Mac Cuilleanan, King of Munster and Bishop of Cashel in the ninth century, wrote a glossary of that language, some very ancient copies of which still remain. At these seminaries all foreigners were entertained and educated gratuitously, being provided with books and every other necessary. Nor did the learned men of Ireland confine their useful labours to their own country, but established various literary and religious institutions amongst foreign nations, as Columban in France and Italy ; Gall, near the Lake of Constance; Columba, the Culdee, at Hy or Iona, with many others : and when Charlemagne founded the Universities of Paris and Ticinum (or Pavia,) he placed two Irishmen, Albin and Clement at their head.

But the fierce incursions of the Danes and other northern barbarians, and the cruel hostilities which they carried on in Ireland from the eighth to the eleventh century, nearly extinguished the cultivation of literature and the sciences. All the friends of learning were pursued by these savages with merciless rage, and their colleges and their writings were involved in one common destruction.* It is probable,

* Father Walsh thus pathetically laments the ruin of his country by the Danes. "There was no monarch now (the

however, that many of the latter were carried away by them into their own country, for Peter Lombard, who was titular Archbishop of Armagh in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, states in his *Analecta*, that many volumes of Irish manuscripts were then in the Royal Library of Copenhagen, and that the King of Denmark earnestly requested the Queen to send him some Irishman who would be adequate to the task of translating them---that Donatus O'Daly, a learned antiquarian, was selected for the business, but that his appointment was afterwards countermanded for political reasons. Lombard complains that the English governors endeavoured to destroy or carry away every monument of antiquity of which they

“ ninth century,) but the saddest interregnum every any
 “ Christian had or heathen enemies could wish; no more
 “ king over his people, but that barbarous heathen *Turgesius*;
 “ no more now the “ Island of Saints,” nor the mart of liter-
 “ ature. No more *Beancuir* (Bangor) to be seen but in ashes
 “ now a second time; all the holy monks thereof murdered by
 “ the cruel *Danes* and buried under the rubbish. No more
 “ the monastery of *Fion Bhar* at Cork, which had 700 conven-
 “ tual monks, and together with them seventeen bishops, at one
 “ time wholly devoting themselves to a contemplative life.
 “ No more now the most wonderful cloister of all for evan-
 “ gelical visions and contemplations, under *St. Mochada* at
 “ *Ratha* first, and then at *Lismore*, containing no fewer than
 “ a hundred of the most remarkable monks for sanctity, that
 “ have ever been, in any age or nation. No more the renowned
 “ schools of *Dundaleathglas*, *Armagh*, *Lismore* or *Cashel*. No
 “ more an university, academy or college of learning in all
 “ the land, nor foreigners coming to admire or study in
 “ them.”

could obtain possession; and that a great number were shut up in the Tower of London, and consigned to forgetfulness, which, if translated, would throw new and interesting light on religion and letters.

But though so many unpropitious circumstances combined to destroy the monuments of our ancient literature, yet it is not impossible that some may have escaped; and could we grant unequivocal credit to their authenticity, a few are still to be found in our own country, as the Psalters of Cashel and Tarah, Cormac's Glossary, the Book of Armagh, the Book of Lecan,* the *Reim Rioga*, (or Roll of the Kings), &c. Dr. O'Halloran, in his history of Ireland, speaks of having obtained a copy of the Book of Lecan, faithfully transcribed from the original in the Irish College at Paris, from which, with the *Reim Rioga* and other curious manuscripts, he derived much useful information.

According to our annalists, Poetry and Music were cultivated by the ancient Irish with the greatest ardour. They tell us that the national history and the exploits of their heroes and statesmen were conveyed in the harmony of sound and verse. Such

* Doctor Ledwich says that the Book of Lecan was compiled between the years 1380 and 1417, a period of domestic rebellion and confusion. "Uneasy," says he, "under the English yoke, and unable to shake it off, the miserable Seanachies of those times amused themselves and their countrymen with fabulous tales of the antiquity and nobility of their descent, the grandeur and power of their former princes, and the distinguished learning and civility of their ancestors."

employments formed the chief pleasure of their festive hours, and these compositions were sung by Princes, Bards and Harpers. Besides the other duties of their profession, we are told, that the bards acted as Heralds. Clad in white flowing robes, and accompanied by their musicians, they marched with the chiefs at the head of their armies, which they animated with martial strains, sung to the accompaniment of the Harp : they sang also the praises of such as fell in battle. “ In a dissertation prefixed “ to an edition of Clanrickard’s memoirs (London “ 1722,) there are, says O’Halloran, some remarks “ on the study of Poetry in Ireland, worthy of perusal. We are told, that a candidate must have “ been at very close study for seven years before “ he could obtain any literary degree, which you “ will the less admire upon considering the great “ difficulty of the art, the many kinds of poems and “ the exactness and nicety to be observed in each, “ to render their numbers soft and the harmony “ agreeable and pleasing to the ear.”

These Crotaries or Harpers certainly excelled all other nations in harmony and composition ; and the Irish music is at this day allowed to be purely original. Their fondness for Music and Poetry seems to have been carried to an extravagant height, every great family retaining a *Filea* or Poet, and a *Crotarie* or Harper. The language seemed happily adapted to Poetry, by its softness and sweet lines ; and its luxuriance and expressiveness never

left the bard at a loss for words. Dr. Macpherson acknowledges, “ that never did any nation encourage
“ or indulge the profession of Bards with a more
“ friendly partiality than the Irish. Their nobility
“ and gentry, their kings both provincial and supreme, patronized, caressed, and revered them.
“ The bards of distinguished character had estates
“ in land settled on them and their posterity ; and
“ even amidst the ravages, and excesses of war, these
“ lands were not to be touched, the poet’s person was
“ sacred, and his house was deemed a sanctuary.”

We have but one instance of the violation of this sacred indulgence, in the murder of the bard Cetmathach (poet laureat to the monarch Eochaid) by Eana King of Leinster, at the battle of Cruachan, although he fled for refuge under the shield of the Leinster troops. For this base act Eana got the name of Cinselach, which has descended to his posterity to this day ; the meaning of which is *the foul or reproachful head*. The bards attended their patron to the field of battle, not only to animate the troops in the midst of the fight by their songs and by their music, but also to witness their exploits, and to transmit them to posterity. The Ode composed on such occasions, was called *Rosg Catha*, or eye of the battle, as being sung in the midst of carnage.*

* Numbers of these Odes are still preserved, many of which were in the possession of O’Halloran, who gives us a specimen of one of them, as addressed by the poet Fergus, the son of Finn, to Gaul Mac Morni, at the battle of Cnucha, in which

The original music of all countries was vocal, and accompanied those extemporaneous hymns and songs in praise of the Deity, and in honour of ancient heroes. It was in the day of battle and hour of sacrifice that the concerts of our remote and barbarous ancestors were performed. The warrior advanced to the charge singing the actions of ancient captains; and the priest, whilst the bleeding victim expired on the altar, chaunted the praise of the Divinity.

With the ancient Music of Ireland, we can be little acquainted; but its celebrity is generally

the famous Cumhail fell by the sword of this hero. The following is a literal translation:—

“Gaul, vigorous and warlike chief of the intrepid: unboundedly generous: the delight of majesty: a wall of unextinguishable fire: rage unremitting. A champion replete with battles: directing the rage of heroes. Lover of constant desolation: Son of the great Morni: generous to Poets: respite to warriors. A tribute on nations: the downfall of foreigners.”

The following extract from the description of the battle of Muigh Cruimh near Athenry, in the year of our Lord 221 between Art, the monarch, and Mac Con and his foreign auxiliaries is majestic and sublime. In this battle Art the Monarch fell, with many other Princes:—

“The hero of Tara. The irresistible wave in enmity; as quick as lightning in defence; terrible in battle; the support of mighty armies; the hand of liberality, the all-protecting; the performer of most mighty deeds. Art the son of Con the son of Feilim the son of Tuathal arose. Warrior like was his anger, powerful his voice, lovely the champion; his flaxen hair plaited, his shirt of silk, &c. In one hand he bears two bows, in the other his javelin, and by his side his dreadful and irresistible sword.”

acknowledged even by foreigners, so that Caradoc who was a Welshman, says that his countrymen had all their musical instruments, tunes and measures from Ireland. Mr. Beauford reduces our ancient musical instruments to two species, the Organic and Rythmical. Of the Organic or wind instruments, the principal were the *Stuic*, or Bugle-horn, made of the horns of animals, and which were probably the first invented musical instruments—the *Trompa* or trumpet, supposed to have been intro-

An eminent Poet of antiquity, celebrates the ancient customs of the Irish Kings, in the following poem, freely translated from the original :—

Ten royal officers, for use and state
Attend the court, and on the monarch wait ;
A nobleman, whose virtues, actions, grace
His blood, and add new glories to his race ;
A judge, to fix the meaning of the laws,
To save the poor, and right the injured cause ;
A grave physician, by his artful care
To ease the sick, and weakened health repair ;
A poet, to applaud and boldly blame,
And justly to give infamy or fame ;
For without him the freshest laurels fade,
And vice to dark oblivion is betrayed :
The next attendant, was a faithful priest,
Prophetic fury rolled within his breast,
Full of his God he tells the distant doom
Of kings unborn and nations yet to come ;
Daily he worships at the holy shrine,
And pacifies his God with rites divine ;
With constant care the sacrifice renews,
And anxiously the parting entrails views :
To touch the harp the sweet musician bends,
And both his hands upon the strings extends ;
The sweetest sound flows from each warbling string
Soft as the breezes of the breathing spring :
Music has power the passions to controul,
And tunes the harsh disorders of the soul :—
The antiquary by his skill reveals
The race of kings, and all their offspring tells ;
The spreading branches of the royal line,
Traced out by him, in lasting records shine :
Three officers in lower order stand,
And when he dines in state, attend the king's command.

duced by the Danes—the *Adharcaidh-Chiuil* or Musical-horn, made of metal or animal horn, with a mouth-piece and body perforated with three or four ventages. From this are supposed to have

The accomplished Miss Brooke has made a fine collection of old Irish Poems, which she has beautifully translated into English verse; amongst the rest, *Ochtra Oisheen agus Phadrig*, the Dialogue of Ossian and St. Patrick, (a few extracts from which may be seen in the Antiquary attributed to Sir Walter Scott,) and also the much admired song of *Emun a Chnoic*, beginning with—*A chuil alain deas na bhfainnibh Cas, &c.*—translated:—

Bright her locks of beauty glowing,
Curling fair and sweetly flowing;
And her eyes of smiling blue,
Oh! how soft, how heavenly glowing!

There is another song with the words and air of which the Irish, (who understand the language) are greatly delighted, called *Eilin a Ruin*, the origin of which is thus narrated. Carol Moore O'Daly, (brother to Donogh, a turbulent Connaught Chieftain, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth) was one of the most accomplished gentlemen of his time, and particularly excelled in Poetry and Music. He paid his addresses to Ellen the daughter of a Chieftain named Cavanagh, a lovely and amiable young lady who returned his affection, but her friends disapproved of the connexion. O'Daly was obliged to leave the country for some time, and they availed themselves of the opportunity which his absence afforded them, of impressing on the mind of Ellen a belief of his falsehood, and of his having gone to be married to another; after some time they prevailed on her to consent to marry a rival of O'Daly. The day was fixed for the nuptials, but O'Daly returned the evening before. Under the first impression of his feelings, he sought a wild and sequestered spot on the sea shore, and inspired by love, composed the song of *Eilin a Ruin*. Disguised as a Harper, he next night gained access among the crowd, that thronged to the wedding. It happened that he was called on by Ellen herself to play. "It was then that touching his harp with all the pathetic sensibility, which

originated the cornet, hautboy, flute, &c. The name *Adharcaidh-Chiuil* has also been given to the French-horn, or *Corne de Chasse*. But the favourite wind instrument of the Irish in later times

the interesting occasion inspired, he infused his own feelings into the song he had composed, and breathed into his softened strain, the very soul of pensive melody. It began *dtiucfa tu no a bhfanna tu Eilin a ruin*. "Will you stay or come with me Ellen my dear." Ellen soon felt its force, and contrived to elope with him that very night.

There are many other old songs, with which the native Irish are charmed whenever they hear them sung or played, such as *Coshail Muin*, "Cashel in Munster," and "*Shane O Dier an Glana*, "O'Dwyer of the Glen," beginning with *Ag eirgh dham air Maidin*, &c. literally, "In the morning I arose, I heard the Cuckoo's notes, was charmed with the vernal sun, and the sweet music of birds." One would almost suppose that the following lines of Thomson alluded to this when he says,

——— "While I deduce,
From the first note the hollow Cuckoo sings,
The symphony of spring, and touch a theme
Unknown to fame—the passion of the groves."

We have selected those songs, because some of them are nearly three hundred years old, are national airs, and constantly listened to with enthusiastic delight in every part of Ireland. There was another species of poetry properly elegiac, which was commonly sung at Irish wakes; and which possesses a great similarity to the lamentation of Hecuba, Andromache and Helen, over the dead body of Hector, as related in the 24th Book of Homer. They commenced with *Oligo-on-on* (how like the words *zo-on go-on* which Homer puts into the mouth of Andromache and her maid at the departure of Hector to battle.) At wakes, a female, generally a relative, sung the virtues of the dead, the exploits of his ancestors, each beneficent action of the family, their honors of old and noble deeds, exciting the friends of the deceased to emulate his virtues. At the end of each stanza, the chief mourner was accompanied by a chorus of females, in a very pathetic but pleasing strain, which

appears to have been the *Piob-mala* or Bag-pipes, the *Chorus* of the Latins. It is said to have been first introduced from the East, its construction being at that time extremely simple, consisting only of a bag of leather, with two pipes, one being blown by the mouth to fill the bag with air, while the other had ventages, and admitted the sound. It was subsequently improved by the addition of a chorus consisting of two side drones, in which state it became a martial musical instrument of the Irish kerns or infantry, and is still used by the Highland Scots. But in Ireland a further improvement was made about the close of the sixteenth century by taking the pipe from the mouth, and causing the bag to be filled by a small pair of bellows on compression by

greatly affected the hearers. Sometimes women were hired for the purpose of lamenting and praising the dead; they were called *Mua caoine*, women that mourn; some of the Irish firmly believe even at this day, that the *Beansighe* or *Caoine*, after her decease, appears again, at the approach of the death of any of the family to which she was attached, and is heard to lament the event in the most pleasing melancholy strains. Even some well informed people are so certain of this, that to doubt it would be giving them the highest offence. They had another custom of making known to their neighbours, by the *fullelugh* (compounded of *fuil-le-luagh*, blood by recital,) that they intended to take out the corpse to the grave, and this was in order to assemble a sufficient number for the purpose. This custom arose from the paucity of inhabitants then in Ireland, their living at a distance from each other, and the country being overgrown with woods. The practice has been omitted within these last forty years, nor is the *Bean Caoine* any longer employed.

the elbow. From this the instrument took the name of *Cuislean* or *Cuisleagh-Cuil*, that is Elbow-pipes or Elbow-music, and under this denomination it still remains among the people.*

The ancient Bards rejected all wind instruments from their concerts, admitting only the Rythmical. These consisted of the *Tiompan* or Drum, which was used amongst the Greeks and Romans at a very remote period: amongst the Irish it resembled a tabor, consisting of a skin strained over an iron hoop, and beat with sticks, or with the fingers—the *Crotalum* or bell—the *Crotalin*, a kind of cymbals

*The *Cuisleagh Cuil*, has been rendered a delightful musical instrument by the addition of a double chanter called a *Regulator*. Among the eminent performers on it, were Mr. Jackson, Mr. E. Nagle, O'Connor, &c. and at the present day, Kearns Fitzpatrick of Caher in the county Tipperary, is deservedly admired, as well as Talbot who has performed before large audiences in England. The Irish Pipers are fond of playing on these instruments all the incidents of a battle, the assembling, the marshalling and advancing of the troops, the phrenzy of the fight, and the lamentation of the women over the slain. One of the most celebrated of these compositions is called *Marshal Oilistrum* or Alexander's March, which has been set to music by the present Sir Gore Ousley. This was Alexander Mac Donnell otherwise *Kolkittoe*, mentioned in the Legend of Montrose, who was slain in cold blood after he had surrendered, at the battle of Knockniness, near Kanturk, in the county of Cork in 1647, where the Irish were completely defeated, and the fate of the province decided. In many parts of Connaught, and in the west of the county of Clare bordering on the ocean, these are played, and the songs above-mentioned sung delightfully. Those who cannot speak English, excel most in these performances.

made of brass, gold, or silver.—But the instrument to which the Irish Bards were most indebted for their musical reputation was the Harp. *Oirpheam*, its ancient name, is supposed by many to have been derived from the celebrated musician Orpheus. But Mr. Beauford conceives that neither the Greeks or Romans were acquainted with it, that it is of Teutonic or Scythic origin, and that it was first introduced into these islands by the Saxons and Danes. The Irish gave their harps the names of *Clarsech* from the musical board, and *Cruit*, from the warbling of the strings, and they made great improvements on the original instrument, by increasing the number of strings from eighteen to twenty-eight. A harp of this species, supposed to have belonged to Brian Boiromhe is in Trinity College, Dublin. In latter ages the number of strings was increased to thirty-three, in which state the Irish harp still remains. The introduction of the Latin Church Music into this country in 1134 by Malachy O'Morgair, Archbishop of Armagh, greatly improved the science, and Cambrensis who hardly allowed the Irish any other merit, declares that they exceeded all other nations in symphonal music. “The attention of these people,” he observes, “to musical instruments is worthy of praise, in which their skill is beyond comparison superior to any other nation, that we see. For in these, modulation is not so slow and solemn, as in the instruments of Britain, to which we are accustomed; but the

“ sounds are rapid and precipitate; yet sweet and
“ pleasing. It is extraordinary in such rapidity of
“ the fingers, how the musical proportions are pre-
“ served, and the art every where unhurt, among
“ the complicated modulations, and the multi-
“ tude of intricate notes so sweetly swift, so irre-
“ gular in their composition, so disorderly in their
“ concords, yet returning to unison and completing
“ the melody. They commence and quit their mo-
“ dulations with so much subtlety, and the tinkling
“ of the small strings sport with so much freedom
“ under the deep notes of the bass, delight with so
“ much delicacy, and soothe so softly, that the ex-
“ cellency of their art lies in concealing it.”

At the commencement of the fourteenth century the performance of O'Carroll and Cruise was highly celebrated, and the musical skill of the Irish harpers maintained its reputation to the middle of the sixteenth century, when the Bardic Order became extinct. It is a subject of regret, that no specimens of the old Bardic Music exist. They must have died with the Order for want of notation, as the Bards, so far from communicating their musical compositions to those not initiated in their art, took all possible care to conceal their principles, obliging their pupils to commit their lessons to memory. All that we can learn on the subject is that they ranged their Poetry and Music under three species or genera, which they denominated the *Goltraighti*, or Sorrowful Mode, the *Geantraighe*, or Merry

Mode, and the *Suantraighe*, or Sleepy Mode. The first comprehended all songs on plaintive, solemn, and grave subjects, as funeral lamentations, elegies, &c. the second pertained to festivity, war, and the chase ; and the third to love, and other soft and effeminate subjects ; and more especially to a kind of soft humming Music, in which the Bards sung their nocturnal Poems in the chambers of their patrons, or whilst they slept in the fields during their military and hunting expeditions. Many songs and tunes on these subjects are still to be found among the people, but none of them are considered to be of very ancient date.

It is observed by Doctor Percy, “ that after letters began to prevail, and History assumed a more stable form, by being committed to plain simple prose, the songs of the Scalds or Bards began to be more amusing than useful ; and in proportion as it became their business chiefly to entertain and delight, they gave more and more into embellishment, and set off their recitals with such marvellous fictions as were calculated to captivate gross and ignorant minds.” In Ireland verse ceased to be used in our historical writings about the twelfth or thirteenth century, and from that period the profession of the Bards gradually declined. This may also be attributed in a great degree to their having been discountenanced by the English Government, in consequence of the zeal and effect with which they exercised their art, in order to excite a spirit of independence in the

breasts of their countrymen. Severe laws were passed against them in the reigns of King Henry VIII. and Queen Elizabeth. Spenser speaks of their productions at this period as being of the most licentious description, though “sprinkled with some pretty flowers of their natural device, which gave good grace and comeliness unto them.” In the bloody scenes of that period, the Bards frequently flung themselves into the midst of the Irish troops, striking their harps till they raised the martial fury of their countrymen to the highest pitch of ardour, which often led them to victory.* The influence which the

* Amongst the most celebrated Bards of this period was Mac Curtin, hereditary *Ollamh* of North Munster, and *Filea* to Donough, Earl of Thomond, and President of Munster. This Nobleman having joined Elizabeth's forces, Mac Curtin presented an adulatory poem to Mac Carthy, Chief of South Munster, who with O'Neil, O'Donnel and others, had taken the opposite side. In this poem he dwelt with rapture on the courage and patriotism of Mac Carthy; but the verse that should (according to an established law of the Bards) be introduced in praise of O'Brien, he turned into severe satire: “How am I afflicted,” said he, “that the descendant of the great Brien Boiromh cannot furnish me with a theme worthy the honour and glory of his exalted race!” Lord Thomond hearing of this, vowed vengeance on the Bard, who fled for refuge to the county of Cork. One day observing the exasperated Nobleman and his retinue at a small distance, he thought it was in vain to fly, and pretended to be suddenly seized with the pangs of death. He directed his wife to lament over him, and to tell his Lordship that the sight of him by awakening the sense of his ingratitude, had so much affected him, that he could not support it; and he desired her at the same time to present his dying request for his Lordship's forgiveness. The well-feigned tale was related to the Earl, who not only most

Bards thus possessed aroused the jealousy of Elizabeth, who caused acts of Parliament to be passed against them and all who should entertain them, "for" said these acts, "that those *Rymors* do by their ditties and rymes made to divers Lords and Gentlemen in Irelande in the commendacyon and highe praise of extortion, rebellyon, rape, raven, and outhere injustice, encourage those Lords and Gentlemen rather to follow those vices than to leave them." The arms of Cromwel and of William III. completely destroyed the remains of the feudal system in Ireland. The pride of her chieftains was humbled, their castles were razed, and in those halls which had formerly resounded with minstrelsy and song, nothing is now heard save the shrieking of the owl, or the flapping of the drowsy bat. English arts and manners became more generally prevalent, and the pursuits of trade and agriculture have happily introduced a better order of things.

The properties of the Bards were now confiscated with the estates of which they formed a part—they were no longer entertained in the families of the great with wonted respect, and they degenerated into itinerant musicians, wandering from house to

heartily forgave Mac Curtin, but opening his purse presented the fair mourner with some pieces to inter him. This instance of his Lordship's pity and generosity gave courage to the trembling Bard, who suddenly springing up, recited an extemporaneous Ode in praise of the Earl, and re-entering into his service, became once more his favourite.—*Walker's Memoirs of the Irish Bards.*

house, their harp slung at their back, and offering to play for hire. The last of this celebrated race of men, whose name may be considered worthy of record, was Turlough O'Carolan,* who died in the

*Turlough O'Carolan was born at Nobber, Co. of Westmeath, in 1670. He was deprived of sight at a very early period of his life, and having exhibited an ardent passion for music, his friends resolved to cultivate it. At the age of twelve they procured a master to instruct him on the harp, and he soon excelled both as a musician and poet. After his marriage he settled on a small farm near Moshill in the county of Leitrim, where improvident habits and an imprudent hospitality brought him into considerable embarrassments. He now commenced an itinerant musician, and mounted on a good horse, and attended by a harper, he visited the houses of the nobility and gentry, by whom he was treated with great respect, a distinguished place being allotted to him at every table. This hospitality was celebrated by the grateful effusions of his muse, and it was during these peregrinations that Carolan composed those airs which are still the delight of his countrymen. But like too many of our men of genius Carolan indulged in habits of intemperance : he had early acquired a love for spirituous liquors, and his profession afforded him an ample opportunity for indulging this pernicious propensity, which brought on a disorder that terminated his mortal career in the year 1738. He was interred in the parish church of Kilronan in the diocese of Ardagh, where his grave is still pointed out to all who visit the resting place of the last of the Irish Bards. The extraordinary musical talents of Carolan have been highly eulogised by some excellent judges of that delightful art, the justice of which is strikingly illustrated by the following incident related by Doctor O'Halloran : " In the beginning of the eighteenth century, the then Lord Mayo brought from Dublin a celebrated Italian performer to spend some time with him at his seat in the country. Carolan, who was at the time on a visit at his Lordship's, found himself greatly neglected and complained of it one day in the presence of the

year 1738. His melodies, though extremely simple, give pleasure even to the most refined taste, and his poetry is not always below mediocrity.

PROGRESS OF CIVILIZATION.

Authentic History sheds less light on this subject than even on those of which we have already treated, for our ancient writers delighted more in recording the exploits of Kings and heroes than in noticing the advancement of mankind in those peaceful arts which

foreigner. “When you play in as masterly a manner as he has done (replied his Lordship) you shall not be overlooked.” Carolan wagered with the musician, that although he was a total stranger to Italian music, yet he would follow him in any piece he played; and that he himself would afterwards play a voluntary, in which the foreigner would not follow him. The proposal was acceded to, and Carolan was victorious.”

Mr. Philips in his “Emerald Isle,” has paid the following elegant tribute to the memory of the last of the Irish Minstrels :

“Would from his silent rustic tomb,
The shade of CAROLAN should come,
And see his harp of Music hung
Upon some hoary hawthorn tree;
And hear the little robin’s tongue,
Learning its plaintive melody;
While every warbler brings its young
To hear the lovely vesper sung!
And round the choir the fairies play,
And dance their magic roundelay;
’Till the last breath of parting even
Sweet and slowly floating by,
Carries the concert up to heaven
All fragrance and all harmony.
Soft as the murmuring winds that shake
The dew drops from the woodbine spray,
Soft as the airs that stir the lake,
At the rich solemn close of day,
So Carolan’s bewitching lay.”

humanize the manners and augment the happiness of society. It is only from occasional incidents introduced by our Annalists, that we can form any rational conjectures with respect to the habits and occupations of our ancestors previous to their conversion to Christianity, for we are alike disposed to reject the assertions of Strabo and Solinus, that they were Anthropophagi, or devourers of human flesh, and destitute of every virtuous principle, and the splendid fables of Doctor Keating and other Irish historians, who would persuade us that they carried the social and moral duties to all the lengths which heathen lights could afford ; and that they had palaces and other magnificent structures equalling, if not surpassing those of the neighbouring nations. It is more probable that they possessed the virtues, the vices, and the manners of their Celtic brethren in Britain, Gaul and Spain at the same period, being at once ignorant and undesigning. Like them they fed on the productions of the earth, the milk of their cattle, and the flesh of animals taken by hunting and fishing, while the skins of those animals furnished them with cloathing. This mode of life rendered them fierce, impatient of restraint, and averse to living together in large towns or villages, which they conceived might infringe upon their independence.

It affords matter of wonder that a people should exist for so many ages in a state of comparative barbarism, in a country so peculiarly blessed with the

bounties of Providence, possessing a salubrious climate, a fertile soil, woods, plains, mines, quarries, navigable rivers teeming with fish, and furnished with all the conveniencies for traffic with other nations by its large and safe harbours, and its contiguity to the ocean. But, may this not be in some measure accounted for by their remoteness from other countries when navigation was in its infancy, their natural love of a wandering life, and above all the insecurity of property in a small territory, subdivided into numerous petty principalities, who were in almost a constant state of warfare with each other?

It is not likely that the condition of the Irish was much improved for many ages after the introduction of Christianity, for this made no change in their political condition. They still continued destitute of all those conveniencies which we would consider essential to the happiness of a civilized people, their houses were constructed of wattles plaistered on the sides, or covered with turf or rushes, with the exception of those of their kings and chieftains which were built of solid timber, and more or less decorated according to the wealth or dignity of the owners.— Their towns and villages were probably no more than a number of huts placed at a little distance from each other in the middle of a wood, the avenues to which were defended by ramparts of earth, and felled trees laid across each other. Indeed we have no sufficient evidence from antiquity that stone buildings were introduced into Ireland till the beginning of the

ninth century, the first structures of this kind being the stone-roofed chapels built by the Danes.* Nor were private houses generally constructed of these materials for many centuries after, either in Britain or Ireland, for Hollingshed, who wrote his *Chronicles* in the reign of Elizabeth, quaintly remarks, “that three things were altered for the worse in England—the multitude of chimnies lately erected, the great increase of lodgings, and the exchange of treene platters into pewter, and wooden spoons into silver and tin. Nothing but oak for building houses is now regarded. When houses were built with willow, then had we oaken men; but now our houses are come to be built of oak, our men are not only become willow, but a great many altogether of straw.” It must appear paradoxical that during the seventh and eighth centuries, when it is acknowledged on all hands, that literature in this country had acquired the highest celebrity, the most useful branches of human knowledge were neglected; but a remark of Doctor Johnson, in his *Journey to the Hebrides* may not, perhaps, be unaptly applied to this case, “that he knew not whether it was peculiar to the Scots to have attained the liberal without the manual arts, to have excelled in ornamental knowledge, and to have wanted not only the

* The Firbolgs or Belgic colonies which settled in Ireland, like their brethren in Germany, dwelt during a great part of the year in artificial caves, in which chambers were formed with dry stones, and arched over head. Many of these have been discovered in various parts of the country.

elegancies but the conveniencies of common life.— Yet men thus ingenuous and inquisitive are content to live in total ignorance of the trades by which human wants are supplied, and to supply them by the grossest means.” We should recollect also, that the learning of that day was confined to monasteries, and of too abstract a nature to have much influence on the habits and manners of the people.*

* We are aware that this view of the ancient state of Ireland has been controverted with considerable ability by writers of high character amongst their countrymen, as O'Connor, Lynch, O'Halloran, &c. who insist that structures of stone were erected in Ireland at a very early period. We are told that Marcianus Heracleota, in a tract called *Periplous*, says, “Ireland has sixteen nations, eleven famous cities, five remarkable promontories, six noted islands, and fifteen principal rivers.” The splendid palace of Eamania, next to Tara the most magnificent structure in ancient Ireland, was founded by the Monarch Ciambhaoth in the year of the world 3539, and continued to be the residence of the Kings of Ulster till A. D. 315, when it was destroyed by the Collas, grandsons to Cairbre Lieffechaire. The remains of this palace may be yet traced near Armagh, occupying (according to O'Halloran) an uncommon scope of ground : a very old poem descriptive of this building begins, “*Eamhuin a luin aras Ulladgh*,” i. e. lovely Eamania, seat of the Ulster Kings.” The house appropriated to the *Curaidhe na Craoibhe*, or Knights of the Red Branch, being the hereditary Knights of Ulster, was built near this, and is said to have been very splendid. There is a townland near the hill of Navan, which is yet denominated *Creeve-Roe*, and which in English letters expresses the sound that signifies in Irish the ‘Red Branch.’

It must be universally admitted that many famous countries and cities mentioned both in sacred and profane history have so degenerated that scarcely a trace of their ancient grandeur is to be found. The site of Babylon and Nineveh is scarcely

Giraldus Cambrensis, in his *Topography*, has described with great minuteness the state of Ireland at the arrival of the English ; and, though considering his national prejudices, all his statements may not be entitled to implicit credit, yet as he wrote by the command, and chiefly for the information of his sovereign, it is natural to suppose that he would aim at being as accurate as his means and opportunities would permit. He represents Ireland at that time as being nearly uninhabited, without roads, and covered with forests. Of our husbandry and corn he says little, but he states that our wheat was small and contracted ; that there was much straw but little corn, a

known, and ruined walls and pillars alone point out the spot where Tyre once stood. In Ireland also, as well as other countries, some vestiges have been found calculated to support the opinion that this country had been formerly more thickly peopled than in later times. Mr. Molyneux, in a letter to the Archbishop of Dublin written at the close of the seventeenth century, stated that Ireland had certainly been better inhabited formerly than it is at present. "Mountains that are now covered with bogs," says he, "have been formerly ploughed ; for when you dig five or six feet deep you discover a proper soil for vegetation and find it ploughed into ridges and furrows ; and I am told," continues he, "that on the top of an high mountain in the North, there are yet remaining the streets and other marks of a large town, and in truth there are few places, but either at present or when the bog is removed, exhibit marks of the plough which must surely prove the country formerly to be better inhabited." Mr. Molyneux was father to the antiquarian Sir Thomas Molyneux, and died in Dublin in 1696. The round towers so common in this country are also adduced as a proof of her ancient greatness, but of these we shall take notice hereafter.

sure consequence of sowing wheat in too rich a soil. He says nothing of the manner of ploughing, but there can be little doubt that it was by the tail, which is still practised in some places. They did not thresh their corn, but a woman sitting down took an handful of corn in her left hand by the stalks, and set the ears on fire; in her right hand she held a stick, with which she beat off the grain as soon as the husk was burnt; so that corn might be dressed, winnowed, ground, and baked in an hour after it was reaped. Some of the monks had erected water-mills for themselves, but the quern was generally used in grinding to a late period. Bread was mostly baked under embers, though the griddle had been introduced by the Firbolgs. What is now called hasty pudding or stir-about, appears to have been a very ancient aliment in Ireland, for in the seventh century Columbanus orders his monks to eat a little bread baked under the embers, to which he adds herbs, legumes (peas, beans, and other podded fruits,) and meal mixed with water. We are also assured by Ware and others, that the ancient Irish used as food trefoil, shamrock, water-cresses, scurvy-grass, and sorrel; and Dr. Rutty says, that in his time the latter was eaten in various parts of Connaught with milk, and also taken with fish, and boiled with cow's blood, salt and butter.

Cambrensis speaks but little of our fruits. He saw but few apple trees, and as there were no orchards, there was no cyder. Barley being but little known, it is probable there was no ale, though it is

said that the Danes brewed it from heath. Mead, a liquor composed of honey and water, and curmi, made according to some from barley, and to others from milk, were their chief drink, though Cambrensis states that he every where found abundance of Poictou wine, for which the Irish exchanged their peltry. The rivers, he says, swarmed with the finest fish, and the country abounded with almost every variety of the feathered race and all the four-footed animals to be found in those western regions, as cows, sheep, horses, deer, swine, badgers, wolves, foxes, hares, rabbits, &c. It therefore appears that there was no want of variety of food. The ancient Irish had two meals a-day, one early in the morning, the other late in the evening. When they met at their ordinary entertainments they sat down in a ring on rushes or beds of grass, instead of chairs or benches. Three-legged tables were then set before them covered with bread, milk-meats, flesh and fish, boiled, broiled, and roasted, the attendants in the mean time serving drink about in cups made of wood, horn, and sometimes of brass. At these feasts the Bards always assisted, and sung the praises of their heroes to the music of the harp. Magnificent accounts are given by some of our Irish writers of the hospitality which abounded in the Hall of Tarah, where we are assured there were no less than twenty-seven kitchens, and nine water cisterns for washing the hands and feet of the guests. The lights used on those occasions (and they were the only lights

known in Ireland for many succeeding centuries) were made of the pith of rushes dipped in some unctuous matter. The more wealthy twisted a great number of those rush-lights together to the thickness of a man's arm, and sometimes to the size of a man's waist. When Shane O'Neil invaded Tirconnell in 1557, his adversary, O'Donnel is said to have been directed to his tent by one of those immense lights, and the chieftain with difficulty escaped.—Cambrensis, in his account of the animals of Ireland, makes no mention of the Moose Deer, whose monstrous bones and horns are so frequently dug up. It is probable that their race became extinct soon after the arrival of the Firbolgs, who were passionately fond of hunting. Indeed this was in all ages a favourite practice of the Irish, and their wolf-dogs were often considered acceptable presents by the greatest monarchs.*

We shall now attempt to trace the progress of civilization since the arrival of the English, which owing to the continued prevalence of sanguinary hostilities, was scarcely perceptible till the accession of James I. In judging of the comparative refine-

* Our Records contain a Privy Seal from Henry VIII. ordering two goss-hawks and four greyhounds to be sent from Ireland to the Marquis of Desaraya as a reward for the acceptable services which he had rendered him in his wars; and when Sir Thomas Rowe was sent in 1615 as Ambassador to the Great Mogul, that Emperor desired him to send for some Irish grey-hounds as the most welcome present which he could make him.—*Harris's Ware.*

ment of any people, our opinions must be guided chiefly by the progress which they have made in those arts, the cultivation of which by augmenting the conveniencies and comforts of life, promotes contentment, and a chearful submission to the laws by which those comforts are secured. As the commerce, and consequently the wealth of a country increases, the population will naturally acquire a more refined taste with respect to every thing connected with their food and dress, their habitations, furniture, amusements, and whatever else may contribute not only to their real but fancied wants; and if we only look on the surface of society, this forms the grand distinction between a barbarous and a civilized nation. We shall therefore, briefly examine what progress the Irish people have made in these various particulars.

It has been justly observed, that agriculture has always kept pace with the advancement of knowledge and the progress of civilization. In the most splendid era of the Roman Empire, it was the theme of Cicero's praise, and afforded to Virgil a subject for one of the most elegant and finished poems of antiquity. As producing the raw materials for every kind of commerce it must be of the first importance to all nations, yet so miserably had it been neglected in Ireland till within a comparatively recent period, as almost to be overlooked by all our writers on statistics.— This may have been partly owing to the nature of the soil, which, though exceeding in fertility that

of England, is more favourable to the production of grass than corn, the excessive moisture so beneficial to the former being pernicious to the latter; and it may also be attributed in no small degree to the attachment of the Irish to the wandering life of their ancestors. This is proved by the fact, that so late as the year 1647, orders were issued at Kilkenny by the general assembly of the Confederate Catholics, prohibiting the people of Ulster from wandering through the provinces of the kingdom, with their families, flocks and herds, injuring several counties by destroying the grass, corn, and other property of the inhabitants, which had occasioned several counties and places to be quite deserted and wasted; and that the said Keyriaghts, as they were called, or herdsmen, should avoid the contributions due of them. Many places at this day where these wandering Ulster men and their families made a temporary settlement, are called after them, such as Clounaltagh or Clonoulty, and Ballynultagh in the County Tipperary, &c. and the time of their emigration is called *Saurah Naultagh*, (i.e. the summer of the Ulster people.)—Indeed the nature of the soil and the moisture of the climate still cause grazing to predominate to a great extent in Ireland, so that besides supplying our own population, an immense number of cattle, sheep and pigs are annually exported, either alive or slaughtered. In 1814 (the last year of the war) the exports from the farm-yard and the dairy were 26,351 live cattle, 8,200 sheep,

17,345 pigs, 3,601 horses, 110,218 barrels of beef, 170,289 barrels of pork, 5,830 cwt. of hams, 291,019 fitches of bacon, 321,871 cwt. of butter, 16,855 cwt. of tallow and hog's lard, 2,384 cwt. of feathers, and 23,804 raw hides, the total value of which was £4,162,541.

But the agriculture of Ireland, though far from being cultivated to the extent of which the country is capable, has within the last century amazingly increased, so that we have now not only an abundant supply of grain of every description for home consumption, but a vast quantity is annually exported to the sister island; and were the daily improving modes of husbandry accompanied by sufficient capital and a judicious system of letting land, we should, no doubt, soon be surrounded by a prosperous, contented, and happy peasantry. Previous to the year 1772, the corn imported into Ireland considerably exceeded that which was exported. A happy improvement, however, in this respect, has been gradually taking place from that period to the present, so that now the quantity of corn grown is sufficient not only for the support of a population more than doubled, and the increased supply of the breweries and distilleries,* the former of which have doubled,

* Beer and Ale brewed with hops appear to have been unknown to the ancient Britons and Irish, though they probably had other liquors so denominated. It was about the middle of the twelfth century that the distillation of ardent spirits was introduced, and for some time they were only used medicinally, being con-

and the latter quadrupled their annual consumption of grain within the last forty years—but to export a surplus valued at little short of a million sterling. To effect this it is calculated that more than 800,000 additional acres of land must have been brought into culture since that period.

The immense forests by which Ireland was formerly overspread remained with little diminution till 1606, except in the settlements of the English. Cromwell destroyed many woods on account of the shelter which they afforded to the natives, and their annihilation was accelerated by a very profitable trade which was carried on soon after his time in pipe-staves and other lumber; thus wood became at length too valuable for firing, and turf was substituted. Rice was sown in Ireland in 1585, and about the same period potatoes were first introduced from America by Sir Walter Raleigh, and planted near the town of Youghall;* he brought the celebrat-

sidered as a sovereign specific for the cholic, dropsy, palsy, and various other disorders. They were consequently dignified with the name of aqua vitæ, and in Ireland they received the equivalent appellations of uisgebeatha, usquebaugh, or Whiskey. Spirits were distilled from malt in Ireland in 1590, and they were made to resemble foreign liquors by adding aromatic seeds and spices. They had also a liquor called Piment, composed of honey, wine, ginger, pepper and cinnamon.

* The person who planted these potatoes, imagining that the apples which grow on the stalk, was the part to be used, gathered them; but not liking their taste, neglected the roots, till the ground being dug afterwards to sow some kind of

ted Affane cherry at the same time from the Canary islands. Artichokes, cauliflowers, and some others of the finer vegetables were introduced about the seventeenth century.

With the exception of that of linen the manufactures of Ireland have not kept pace with her tillage or agriculture ; but on the contrary the woollen manufacture which flourished in this country at a very remote period, has considerably retrograded : it is supposed to have been first introduced into Ireland by the Firbolgs or Belgic colonies. In the ninth century the Flemings had obtained a superiority over all the other nations of Europe in their woollens, and many of them came to England in the reign of William the Conqueror, and improved the natives in the arts of weaving, fulling and dying. There is good reason to believe that some of them came to Ireland with the English adventurers in the reign of Henry II. particularly as their countrymen were at that time in possession of the best ports in the island. It is certain that manufactures of frizes, sayes, serges or stuffs, were carried on here as early as the reign of Edward III. and that they were highly esteemed in foreign countries. They are spoken of in the *Dittamondi* of Fazzio delli Uberti, a poet of Florence, grain, the potatoes were discovered therein, and to the great surprise of the planter, vastly increased. From these few all Ireland was furnished with the seed of that root which is now the chief food of her peasantry.

who flourished in the fourteenth century in the following lines :—

*Similmente passamo en Irlanda,
La qual fra noi e degna fama,
Per le nobile saie, che si manda.*

“ In like manner we pass into Ireland, which among us is worthy of renown for the excellent stuffs which she sends us.”

They were then worn by the ladies of Florence as a fashionable dress. The Italian merchants took our peltry and sayes in exchange for their wine, spices, and the shells of cocoa-nuts, which were converted into drinking-cups.

In the reign of Edward III. the woollen trade first began to flourish in England. Before that period the English exported their wool to Flanders, and imported it back manufactured ; but that monarch perceiving the great disadvantage of such a trade, held out a variety of privileges to the Flemings, to induce them to settle in England ; and this soon turned the balance of trade in favour of that country.—No great quantity of woollen goods, however, was exported till the reign of Elizabeth, who received with open arms the persecuted Walloons ; and this hospitality was amply rewarded by the new impulse which they gave to this trade, and from that period it has advanced with increasing prosperity. Ireland partook, though at a very humble distance, in these advantages, and there can be no doubt, had the English government fostered the woollen manufacture in this country as it has done at home, it would have become equally flourishing.

After the suppression of O'Nial's rebellion, at the commencement of the sixteenth century, upwards of 800,000 English acres of land in Ulster became forfeited to the crown, and James I. deemed this a favourable opportunity for securing the permanent tranquillity of that part of the country, by turning the attention of the people to trade and agriculture, the low state of which at that period will appear from the fact, that in the year 1611 the value of the whole exports and imports of Ireland amounted to no more than two hundred and eleven thousand pounds!*

* In two centuries after (1813) the value of the exports from the port of Waterford alone was £2,200,454 16s. 0d. In one year about the same period the total exports of Irish produce and manufactures were as follows, at the current prices:—

NATURAL PRODUCTIONS.

Produce of Pasture-lands.....	£4,162,541
Arable Lands.....	760,302
Kelp, Minerals, and Fish.....	171,170
	£5,094,013

MANUFACTURES.

Plain Linen.....	£4,610,412
Coloured ditto.....	11,432
Linen Yarn.....	111,987
Worsted Yarn.....	51,355
Candles, Soap, Glass, Books, &c.....	150,836
	£4,936,022
Foreign Goods Exported.....	141,301
	£10,171,336

Making due allowance for the difference in the value of money in the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries, the increase of trade since the former period has been truly astonishing. But when we observe in the foregoing abstract, that of our exports

ally accomplished by forming borough or corporate towns, and granting the forfeited lands to undertakers of three distinct classes—1st, English and Scotch settlers who were to locate Englishmen and Scots on the lands—2d, Servitors in Ireland, who might take English or Irish tenants *ad libitum*—and 3d, native free-holders of the country. The lands of the settlers were divided into portions of 2000, 1500, and 1000 English acres, and a small yearly rent was reserved to the Crown. The wisdom of this arrangement has been manifested by the happy change which has since taken place in the condition of the people of that province, once the most uncivilized in Ireland.

Notwithstanding the internal distractions which nine-tenths were the produce of our pasture lands and our linen manufacture, what a tide of wealth and prosperity would have flown into the country had it possessed sufficient capital to cultivate all the other advantages of soil, climate, and situation, with which Ireland is so abundantly blessed. Of about twenty millions of acres, the superficial contents of our island, eighteen millions may be rendered subservient to all the purposes of tillage and pasturage. Numerous mines of coal and the most useful metals and minerals have lain almost unexplored till within a few years back, when public spirit has seemed to receive some impulse on this subject. Our fisheries, hitherto so much neglected, are capable of being made an inexhaustible source of industry and of wealth to the inhabitants of our sea-coasts, while millions of our population in the interior might be employed in carrying on manufactures which have been as yet untried, or only attempted with a cautious timidity springing from the unhappy circumstances of the country, or the unwise jealousy of the sister island.

existed during nearly the whole of the seventeenth century, both the woollen and linen manufactures were carried on with success in various districts, particularly in the North ; but in the year 1698 the former was sacrificed to the jealousy of England by duties tantamount to a prohibition being laid on the exportation of woollen cloths (frizes excepted ;) and this event compelled a multitude of Episcopalian Protestants, many of whom were English settlers, to desert the country. The woollen manufacture is, however, carried on to a certain extent in various parts of Ireland.

As some compensation for this act of injustice, essential encouragement was from that period given to the linen trade of Ireland. There can be no doubt that linen was very extensively manufactured in this country at a very remote period, for Hakluyt, an English traveller, in a poem written in 1430, enumerates it among the articles then imported into Chester from Ireland :—

Hides and fish, salmon, hakes, herring,
Irish wool and linen cloth faldinge,
And martins good, be their merchandie,
Harts, hides, and otter of venerie.
Skins of otter, squirrel, and Irish hare,
Of sheep, lamb and fox is her chaffere,
Fells of hides and conies great plenty, &c.

There must have been an abundance of linen in the sixteenth century, for at that time we are told, it was fashionable to wear shirts containing thirteen or fourteen yards, and in 1539 an Act of Parliament was passed limiting the quantity for each

shirt to seven yards. Early in the eighteenth century the Linen Board was established, and the effectual encouragement which was now given to the trade induced many Presbyterian Scots, French Hugonots, and some respectable Quaker families to form establishments in various parts of Ulster, and from that period the manufacture has been brought to a very high degree of perfection.* Some estimate may be formed of the product of this valuable article of commerce, from the quantity sold in one year (1819) in the market of Armagh alone, producing £527,800, while the sales of yarn amounted to £145,600, during the same period.

The cotton manufacture is beginning also to flourish in some parts of the country ; that of silk has

* Mr. Stuart, in his highly valuable History of Armagh, has given the following striking instances of the unparalleled excellence to which some industrious females in Ulster have arrived in spinning linen yarn. “ At Dundonnald, in the county of Down, in 1779, a woman out of one pound and a-half of flax which cost about two shillings, produced yarn of so fine a texture as to sell for £5. 2s. 4d. In Dec. 1805, Wm. Dawson, of Woodbank, near Gilford, Esq. had in his possession a hank of yarn spun by Catherine Woods of Dunmore near Ballynahinch, aged about fifteen years, which weighed exactly ten grains, giving about seven hundred hanks to the avoirdupoise pound of flax. These would make a thread 2,521,440 yards in length. Less than eighteen pounds of this yarn would contain a thread 24,912 English miles in length, equal to the circumference of the earth. The first piece of cambric ever, perhaps, manufactured in Ireland, was sold in 1794 in Lurgan market. It counted 2700 warp and 3000 woof, and was valued at £25 sterling.

been brought to a high degree of perfection, while our tabbinets excel those of Spitalfields, Pasley and Norwich. The manufacture of leather and paper is carried on to some extent, and the fine gloves of Limerick and the flint glass of Waterford, though manufactured on a limited scale, are superior perhaps to any in the world.

The mineral wealth with which Ireland abounds may be said to have been to the present almost unexplored. In one county at least a gold mine exists, silver in seven, iron in nineteen, copper in seventeen, lead in seventeen, tin in two, and coal in fifteen of our counties, besides various marbles, granite, crystals, and precious stones. What a vast source of employment to our superabundant population and of wealth to the proprietors of the soil, would the working of these mines afford were it carried on with sufficient spirit and energy. Some of our Annalists have asserted, that gold and silver were found and refined in Ireland a thousand years before the Incarnation, and that mints were established five hundred years before the same epoch, at Armagh, Cashel and Clonmacnois ; but this is rendered extremely questionable by the total absence of coins of that period, the acknowledged fact that the ancient Celts had no names for the precious or baser metals, and that no remains of them as domestic utensils or military ornaments are to be found, all the heads of the old axes, spears, and arrows, being of stone or flint. The use of metals was

probably first introduced by the Belgæ, or Firbolgs ; but whether they explored the treasures of our mountains cannot be ascertained. It is most probable that the natives received the small quantity of gold and silver which they possessed from foreigners in the shape of rings, necklaces, &c. in exchange for their peltry and the other natural productions of the country. The scarcity of the precious metals to a very late period is evident from the fact, that erics or fines were paid, in cattle ; for “ no man,” says a Brehon law, “ is bound to pay brass, silver, or gold, but a king.” Even as late as the fifteenth century trade was very generally carried on by bartering one commodity for another, and the Irish lords generally received their rents in butter, oatmeal, beeves, and swine.

No authentic proof exists that any coinage of money took place in Ireland till the ninth century, when the Danish Prince Turgesius established a mint in Dublin, though a contrary opinion has been maintained by some learned writers on the subject, as Mr. Simon, Mr. Walker, Bishop Nicholson, and others. After the arrival of the English, mints were established in Dublin, Waterford, Limerick, Trim, and Drogheda ; and the reader curious on this subject, will find ample details of the various coinages issued in Ireland to the reign of William and Mary, in Harris's Ware. Of our mines no notice is taken in any public act till the reign of Edward III. when in 1360, a commission was issued by that Monarch

to the Justiciary and Treasurer of Ireland, and the Archbishop of Dublin, to make trial of the mines of gold and silver which, his Majesty was informed, were to be found in many parts of the country : but we have no account of the result of this experiment, nor was any attempt at mining made till the reign of James I. when the Silver mines near Nenagh, in the county of Tipperary, were first wrought, and the work was carried on for more than a century. Lord Strafford sent an ingot of silver from the Royal Mines of Ireland to King Charles I. which weighed three hundred ounces, and he stated in one of his letters to the Secretary of State, “ that the lead mines in Munster were so rich, that every fodder of lead (by which a load is supposed to be meant) had in it to the value of thirty pounds of fine silver.” A mine in the county Antrim is said to yield a pound of silver to every thirty pounds of lead. The Rev. Mr. Ryland, in his History of Waterford, states that at the strand of Kilmurrin in that county, lead ore is found in large quantities among the sand, and that it has yielded from thirty-eight to forty ounces of pure silver per ton. The mines of Bonmahon in the same county, produce copper, lead and silver, and they were worked during the last century to a considerable extent by a company who rented them from Lord Ranelagh. Iron, copper, and coal mines have been wrought to some extent in other counties, but hitherto works of this nature have proceeded but languidly, owing to want of capital and of public spirit. Brighter prospects, however,

are beginning to dawn upon this important branch of national industry, and we rejoice to find, that amongst the various new channels for diffusing the superabundant capital of the empire, the mines of Ireland are included.

The trade and commerce of the country have been much benefited by the efforts which have been made within the last fifty years to improve our inland navigation. The Grand Canal, which was commenced in 1772, now opens a free communication between St. George's Channel and the Western Ocean, which facilitates the transport of goods to the most important places in the South and West; while floating and graving docks have been completed in Dublin, which are capable of containing many hundred sail of vessels. The Royal Canal on the north side of the metropolis, proceeds to Tarmonbury on the river Shannon, from thence to Coolnahay in the county Westmeath, and northward to Kells, with off-branches to various market towns. The navigation of some of our rivers has also been much improved, and a communication is now opened between Belfast and Lough Neagh by means of the Lagan Canal, and the Newry Canal and the South Bann, complete the union of the Lough with Newry.

While the fertility and mineral riches of our island present to the hand of industry a field of almost unlimited exertion, the surrounding seas afford means of national prosperity little inferior. But it is to be lamented that the same causes which have proved so

prejudicial to our agriculture and manufactures, have to the present checked the progress of our fisheries, which among our other objects of enterprize appear to have been comparatively overlooked. Formerly strangers took advantage of our negligence in this respect, for in 1465, we find that an Act of Parliament was passed to prevent foreigners from fishing on our shores.— But it appears that this did not cure the evil, for in 1576, says an old writer on the British Monarchy (John Dee,) “It is necessary to leave to posterity some remembrance of those places where our rich fishing is, as at Kinsale, Cork, Carlingford, Saltasses, Dungarvan, Youghal, Waterford, &c. and all enjoyed from us by strangers, as if it were within their own king’s peculiar limits; nay, rather, as if these coasts, seas, and bays were of their private property and several purchases, to our insuperable loss, discredit, and discomfort. “In his time,” he says, “Black Rock (Baltimore,) is yearly fished by three or four hundred sail of Spaniards and Frenchmen, entering there into the fishing at a strait not half so broad as the Thames is at Whitehall.”

Harris states, that at the commencement of the last century, large quantities of salted salmon, herrings, and pilchards, were exported to foreign parts; and about the same period Dr. Smith informs us, that from the port of Dungarvan a large supply of hake was sent annually to Spain, where it bore a better price than cod from Newfoundland. We are gratified to learn, that the fishery on this part of our coast is again

beginning to revive, as appears from the following passage in the Rev. Mr. Ryland's History of Waterford recently published. "The Nymph Bank, as has been ascertained, stretches along the whole of the southern coast, at the distance of about seven leagues from its eastern part at Dungarvan, to a distance of from fourteen to twenty leagues from its western part at Cape Clear, and the Mizen Head. This bank is supposed to afford an inexhaustible supply of cod, ling, &c. and might be made to add a great accession of wealth to the country, were a few of the harbours improved by piers, and capital afforded to fishermen to enable them to equip their vessels." Mr. Ryland further informs us, that "since the tonnage bounty has been in operation, the number of boats and men employed in the fishery of Dungarvan has increased progressively, so that in the year 1823, a hundred and sixty-three boats and about eleven hundred men had been employed, who had procured for the country more than a thousand tons of excellent fish." Mr. Hardiman in his History of Galway represents the fishing of that bay to be now very considerable, upwards of 2,500 hands being generally employed in the inner bay alone. From the different salmon-fisheries, large supplies of that highly esteemed article of food are sent in the season packed in ice to Liverpool and other ports in England; and there can be no doubt, that if adequate encouragement were afforded to this important branch of national industry, it would prove a mine of wealth

to those who should embark their property in it, and a permanent means of employment to the inhabitants of our sea-coast.

We are happy to find that our wise and liberal government, amidst the other measures in contemplation for the improvement of this country, have recently turned its attention to this important subject. In a paper presented to the Chancellor of the Exchequer some years back by Mr. Frazer, Author of the Statistical Surveys of the counties of Wexford and Wicklow, and in the evidence given by that gentleman in 1822 before a Committee of the House of Commons for investigating the means for providing employment for the Irish poor, he gave it as his decided opinion that this could be best effected by improving the lands on the sea-coast, and turning the attention of those resident in the neighbourhood to the extension of the fisheries; and to effect this, the legislature and land-holders both in Great Britain and Ireland should co-operate. Every encouragement should be afforded to build villages wherever a good fishing station could be found, and to improve the harbours in order to protect the lives and properties of the fishermen. Two Acts of Parliament have since been passed, by which bounties have been granted to the fishermen, a Board of Commissioners has been established for the improvement of the fisheries, and funds provided for assisting in the formation of harbours to the amount of one half the sum required for their erection. In furtherance of this grand object, Mr. Nim-

mo, the Engineer, was appointed by the Lord Lieutenant to make a general survey of the coasts of Ireland, to report the state of the harbours or places of shelter along the coast—the most advantageous sites for fishing stations, and the most useful lines of communication between the principal harbours and interior of the country, through the mountainous districts; and we understand that it appears practicable to make harbours for fishing vessels at short distances from each other along the whole coast at a very moderate expense.* The advantages which must result, not

* It is a melancholy fact that from Sligo Bay to the Lough of Belfast, and from thence to Waterford harbour, an extent of coast little less than three hundred miles, there are at present only Derry, the Lough of Belfast, and the Bay of Dublin, in which vessels can find certain protection in tempestuous weather; and besides these ports along the same extensive coast there is no place of shelter for fishing vessels of sufficient dimensions to proceed at any distance to the fishing grounds, except Strangford and Carlingford Loughs. From Sligo to Belfast there is not a single harbour, and yet such is the propensity of the inhabitants to sea affairs, that in every little creek or inlet, where there was a chance of shelter, Mr. Nimmo found boats of every description, insomuch that in the stretch of coast from Belfast to Carlingford, a distance of forty miles, without a single artificial harbour, there are above six hundred fishing vessels, one third of which are decked or half-decked, employing more than three thousand men. To what an extent, then, might our fisheries be carried, were the whole of our coast provided with safe harbours for all descriptions of fishing vessels. If this were the case, numbers of the people in the interior would be attracted to settle and colonize the coasts, and at least a fifth of our population would find ample employment in the taking and curing of fish, and the various trades connected therewith.

only to the fisheries but to the general trade of this country, by having its coasts thus studded with harbours, would be incalculable.

We shall now take a brief view of the influence which the progress of the useful arts amongst us has had on the general habits of society—which is chiefly evinced in the dress, the food, the habitations, and the amusements of the people.—Mr. Walker thus describes the various articles of cloathing in use amongst the ancient Irish. The *Truis*, or trowsers was made of weft with various colours running on it in stripes or divisions. It covered the ancles, legs, and thighs, rising as high as the loins, and fitting close to the limbs. The *Cota* was a kind of shirt made of thin woollen stuff plaided, or liuen dyed yellow, which was open in front, and fell so far below the waist as to admit of being occasionally folded about the body, and made fast by a girdle round the loins. The *Cochal* was the upper garment which reached to the middle of the thigh, and had a large hanging collar or hood of different colours : it was fringed with a border like shagged hair, and being brought over the shoulders, was fastened on the breast by a clasp, a buckle, or a broach, of gold, silver, or some inferior metal. The *Fillead* was a kind of mantle which being thrown on the shoulders spread over the whole body. The mantles of the inferior classes were made of frize of a dark colour, with a fringed or shagged border sown down the edges ; but those of

the higher ranks were often made of the finest scarlet cloth, bordered with a silken or woollen fringe. On the head the *Barrad*, a kind of conical cap, not unlike that of our present grenadiers, was generally worn, though in Connaught the men, for many ages, had no other covering for the head than the hood of the *Cochula* fastened under the chin by a string or clasp. The feet were covered by the *Brog* or brogue, made of half tanned leather, and consisted of a single sole level from toe to heel, and fastened to the foot by means of a latchet or thong. They cherished the beard with peculiar care, and they took extraordinary pride in the hair of their heads, which they threw back from the forehead, and allowed to flow about the neck in what they called *coluns* or *glibbs*.

The dress of the females differed little from that of the men, except that their mantles were longer, and worn over a long gown or kirtle. The unmarried women went bareheaded, with their hair either hanging down their back, or filleted up and fastened with a bodkin of gold, silver or some inferior metal,*

* The Bodkin was also worn in the breast, as appears from the following passage in an ancient Irish manuscript Romance, called the *Interview between Fion Mac Comhall and Cannan*:—
 “Cannan, when he said this, was seated at the table; on his
 “right hand sat his wife, and on his left sat his beautiful
 “daughter, Findalve, so exceedingly fair, that the snow driven
 “by the winter storm surpassed not her fairness; and her
 “cheeks were the colour of the blood of a young calf. Her
 “hair hung in curling ringlets, and her teeth were like pearls.
 “A spacious veil hung from her lovely head down on her

according to their rank. The married wore a veil or kerchief on their head made of fine or coarse linen according to their circumstances. If we can give credit to our Annalists the higher ranks were clothed in all the splendor of eastern magnificence, and some of our ancient Irish histories vie with the oriental tales which amused the days of our childhood in their descriptions of the gold, silver, and precious stones which glittered on the persons, or decorated the palaces of the princes and nobles of our island. It is not, indeed, improbable that Kings and their households were on particular occasions habited in some degree conformably to their rank, for Dr. Warner states, that Brian Boiromhe presented to Maelmorda King of Leinster, a rich silk mantle embroidered with gold and silver, fringed with lace of great value, and fastened at the neck with a golden button.

The English, soon after their arrival, made strenuous efforts to induce the Irish to adopt their modes of dress, which amongst the gentry at that time consisted of a linen shirt, a vest or tunic with or without sleeves, fitting close to the body, and descending half way down the thigh; a girdle round the waist in which the sword was fixed; short trowsers extending to the knee; a cloak fastened on the right shoulder by a button; wooden shoes, and hose or stock-

“delicate body, and the veil was bound by a *Golden Bodkin*.” Even at this day the female peasants in many parts of Ireland collect their hair at top, and twisting it several times, make it fast with a bodkin.

ings of cloth. They wore the hair of the head long, but shaved the beard, except mustaches on the upper lip, and the head was covered by a bonnet like that of the modern Scotch highlanders. Amongst other plans for effecting this object King John addressed an order to the Archbishop of Dublin, directing him to buy such a quantity of scarlets as he should judge sufficient to make robes to be presented to the Kings of Ireland, and others of the King's liege men, natives of the kingdom. But this device was so far from being successful, that on the contrary, we find in the reign of Edward III. the English settlers became so attached to the dress and manners of the Irish, that it was found necessary to prohibit its adoption under very severe penalties. Laws of a similiar nature were enacted in the reigns of Henry VI. and Edward IV. by which it was declared that any Englishman wearing a beard should be taken for an Irish enemy—that any person found robbing by day or night might be killed, unless he had a faithful man in company in English apparel—and all the Irishmen dwelling within the English Pale, were ordered to go apparell-ed like Englishmen, to wear their beards after the English manner, swear allegiance, and take English surnames—and in the reign of Henry VII. an Act was passed ordering the Lords of Ireland to appear in the same parliament robes as those of England, under the penalty of a hundred shillings.

Luxury in dress appears to have advanced greatly

both in England and Ireland during the reign of Edward III. whose victorious troops had returned from France enriched with the plunder and vitiated by the ever-changing fashions of that country. This passion was encouraged by the example of his weak and dissipated successor Richard II. and was exhibited in party coloured tunics, silken hoods embroidered with grotesque figures, trowsers or drawers reaching only to the middle of the thigh, hose of a different colour on each leg, and pointed shoes of such a length, that to enable the wearer to walk, they were made fast to chains of gold or silver hanging from the knees. The long beard was also again introduced which had been laid aside since the Norman Conquest. Their brethren in Ireland appear to have been infected by the same spirit, for during the reign of Henry VII. we find that our nobles were frequently habited in cloth of gold, silks and taffetas. In Ware's Annals it is recorded that in 1499 John Savage, who had been Mayor of Dublin, bequeathed to the Cathedral of Christ Church two vestments of purple velvet, with a cope of the same; and that in 1506 Gerald Earl of Kildare made an offering in this church of two vestments of cloth of gold and tuff. Hollingshed gives us another proof of the expensive mode of living indulged by the Irish nobles of this period; for when the Castle of Maynooth was taken by Sir William Brereton in 1534, he tells us that "great and rich was the spoil, such store of beds, so many goodlie hangings, so rich a wardrobe, such

brave furniture, as trulie it was accounted (for household stuffe and utensiles) one of the richest Earl's houses under the crown of England.

Henry VIII. in 1539, issued a sweeping proclamation against the dress and fashions of his Irish subjects, "in order that he might induce them to a conformitie, concordance, and familiaritie in language, tongue, in manners, order, and apparel with them *that be civil people*." For this purpose he directed an Act of Parliament to be passed, prohibiting the wearing of long locks called *glibbs*, or hair upon the upper lip named *crommeal*, and it forbade the wearing of mantles or any garment dyed with saffron or made after the Irish fashion under certain penalties. The mantles and glibbs were peculiar objects of abhorrence to the English. The former was used frequently by the Irish to conceal their skeans and other weapons, and both are called by Spenser "fit masks for a thief!" But laws regulating the food, the dress, or the manners of a people, and which appear to have their foundation in an arbitrary caprice rather than in the reason of things, are generally found impracticable in the execution; wise governments have, therefore, always left these matters to the direction of fashion, seeking to draw the people from pernicious customs rather by a prudent policy than by penal enactments. That the Act of Henry VIII. produced little effect is evident from the description which Camden gives of the retinue that attended O'Nial to the court of Elizabeth in 1562, and which also gives us some in-

formation respecting the military habit of the period. "He appeared at Court with his guard of galloglachs "bare-headed, armed with hatchets, their hair flowing in locks on their shoulders, on which were "yellow surplices dyed with saffron, with long "sleeves, short coats, and thrum jackets,* at which "strange sight the Londoners marvelled much."

The prohibited costume still continued prevalent at the commencement of the reign of James I. Moryson informs us, that "though the English and the English-Irish, for the most part, were attired in the English manner, yet that the latter were in some measure infected with Irish rudeness. The mere Irish wandered slovenly and naked, lodging in the same house (if it may be called a house), with their beasts. Their gentlemen or lords of counties wore close breeches and stockings of the same piece of cloth, a loose coat, and a cloak or three cornered mantle of coarse light stuff, and their linen was coarse and slovenly. Their wives went attired in a sluttish gown, fastened at the breast by a clasp, with a mantle and linen still more sluttish, and their heads were covered after the Turkish manner, with many ells of linen." The accuracy of Morryson's representation has, however, been questioned, particularly as it respects the fair sex, for Speed, a writer of the same period, states that "they wore their hair plaited in curious manner, hanging down their backs

* These jackets were of twisted threads, the cords being interwoven in them, or interlaced with each other.

and shoulders from under folded wreathes of fine linen, rolled about their heads, and that their necks were hung with chains and carkanets, their arms wreathed with many bracelets, and over their side garments the shagge rugge mantles, purfled with a deep fringe of divers colours." The exertions of the civil power, however, in this reign, effected a considerable change in the article of dress, which was afterwards extended by the influence of fashion. The circuits of the judges were not now confined within the narrow limits of the Pale, but extended through the whole kingdom, and the Lord Deputy Chichester in 1615, directed that all sheriffs, justices of peace, jurors, and other officers of justice, and freeholders, should attend all Sessions and Sitting Terms, wearing English attire and apparel, and that all who appeared at them in mantles or robes, or wearing glibbs, should be punished by fine and imprisonment.

The abolition of the Brehon laws, and the settlement of English colonists in various parts of the country, had also a powerful influence on the minds of the natives, who witnessing the active industry, the personal neatness, and the domestic comforts of the strangers, were led to imitate their example, and many of them exchanged a blind attachment to ancient customs for the substantial comforts and conveniencies of life. The Irish gentry now very generally adopted the English fashions, and begin to figure in cloaks, ruffs, and

trowsers, with silk garters, puffed in a large knot below the knees, yellow stockings, and knots and roses in their shoes. Hats were about this time first introduced into Ireland.

A splendid court was kept at the Castle of Dublin, in the early part of the reign of Charles I. and national distinctions with regard to dress seemed now so completely at an end, at least among the higher orders, that all the statutes on this subject were repealed. The common people, however, particularly in Munster and Connaught, retained their old habits till the severity of Cromwell's officers compelled them to lay them aside. After the Restoration, fashion reigned with despotic sway in the dissipated court of Charles II. from whence open sleeves, pantaloons, shoulder-knots, Flanders lace, neck-cloths, and perriwigs,* found their way into Ireland. Ladies began to frizzle and curl their hair, and fans appear to have come into use about this period. Mr. Walker says, he had one of that age in his possession mounted in a thin kind of silk of a deep blue ground with grotesque figures—the handles were ivory stained brown, covered on the outside with elegant sil verfiligree work, and studded with amethysts. Luxury in dress does not appear to have been confined to the highest class during this reign, for Laurence, in his *Interest of Ireland*, published in 1682, complains that

* The first person who wore a wig in England, was Saxton, fool to Henry VIII. The first in Ireland was a Mr. Edmund O'Dwyer, who had lost his estate by opposing Cromwell's forces. He was vulgarly denominated *Edmund of the Wig*.

tradesmen's wives wore not only silk gowns, but hoods and scarfs of the same materials, and frequently two or three silk petticoats. Mr. Walker exhibits a contrast to the female dress of this period in the person of a Mrs. Power who lived near Waterford: she was a lady of considerable fortune, and lineally descended from the Kings of Munster.—Proud of her country and descent, she always spoke the Irish language, and affected the dress and manners of the ancient Irish. The border of her coif was of the finest Brussels lace; her kerchief of clear muslin; her jacket of the finest brown cloth, trimmed with narrow gold lace; the sleeves of crimson velvet striped with the same; and her petticoat was of the finest scarlet cloth, bordered with two rows of gold lace. She was vulgarly called the Queen of Credan.

The reign of Anne was prolific in new fashions; the ladies appeared in short jackets of Spanish cloth fastened on the breast with ribbands, hoops of immense circumference, high peaked stays, shoes of red or blue Spanish leather laced with gold, stockings of blue or scarlet worsted or silk, ornamented with clocks worked with gold or silver thread, and their necks were adorned with black collars tied with ribbands. On the head they wore hoods of divers colours, and beaver hats trimmed with broad gold and silver lace, and a buckle in front. Gold or silver laced coats and waistcoats, the former with long skirts and slashed sleeves, cravats edged with Flanders lace, hose similar to those of the ladies, broad square-toed

shoes made fast with small buckles, and monstrous perriwigs surmounted by a small hat, formed at the same time the costume of the gentlemen. Since that period the superior classes in Ireland have continued to follow the ever-varying fashions of the neighbouring nations, while little change is observable in the dress of the peasantry.

By a gradation equally slow have our countrymen advanced in those other particulars which mark civilized society ; for never were there greater impediments opposed to the refinement of any people. Sir John Davis remarks truly, that Ireland was not entirely brought under obedience to the English crown till the reign of James I. the country was consequently a theatre of constant warfare between the English government and the native princes ; nor were the *English by birth* and the *English by blood* less opposed to each other. From the arrival of Henry II. to the reign of Elizabeth, the country had not enjoyed seven years of tranquillity at any one period—there was consequently no security for either life or property. The improvements which the superior wealth and industry of the invaders might have effected were counteracted by the insatiable cupidity of each successive colony of adventurers, and the unconquerable impatience of the natives under a foreign yoke. During this long period, the Irish were in possession of the greater part of the open country (except within the Pale) while the English were forced to

shut themselves up in their walled towns on the sea-coast, or erect castles for the defence of their conquests wherever their arms could extend. A rage for the erection of churches, monasteries and castles, prevailed at this time throughout Europe, and while private houses, except the mansions of the great, continued to be mean edifices of wood with windows of thin cloth or lattice, majestic edifices were erected for the worship of the Deity, or as places of defence in times of feudal anarchy; and it is probable that with these exceptions few stone houses were erected in this country till within the last two centuries.

In a state of society where property was held by such a slender tenure, it could not be expected that the arts, except those of the first necessity, would be attended to. Until the founding of Trinity College in 1591, literature, which after the introduction of the art of making paper in the eleventh century, began to make some progress in other countries of Europe, was nearly banished from an island where it had formerly shone with so much brilliancy. The state of religious feeling must at this time have been exceedingly low, for it scarcely calls forth a passing remark from the historian, and the manners of the natives appear to have undergone but little improvement from the twelfth to the seventeenth century.

Even in the reign of Elizabeth there were few important cities or towns in Ireland. Hollingshed gives an enumeration of them without any regard to

rank or priority, (which will be found in the subsequent note,*) and of Dublin, Waterford, Limerick, Cork, Drogheda, Ross, Kilkenny, and Thomastown, he gives some description. The circuit of our metropolis at that period little exceeded an Irish mile, and the streets which it contained were but twenty-three. It possessed fifteen churches, and appeared to enjoy at that time considerable prosperity; for Hollingshed highly eulogizes its municipal government, with the charitable and hospitable dispositions of the citizens. "What," he says, "should I here speak of their charitable almes, dailie and hourlie extended to the needie. The poore prisoners both of the Newgate and the Castell, with three or four hospitalls, are chieflie, if not onlie relieved by the citizens. Furthermore, there are so manie extraordinarie beggars that dailie swarm there, so charitable

* IN ULSTER.
Drogheda,
Carrigfargus,
Downe,
Armagh,
Arglash,
Cloagher,
Muncighan,
Doonegaule,
Karrig mac Rosse,
Newrie,
Carlingford,
Ardie,
Doondalke,
Louth

IN LEINSTER.
Dublin,
Bulrudrie,
Luske,
Swords,
Tashaggard,
Lions,
Newcastle,
Rathcoule,

Oaghter Arde,
Naas,
Clane,
Mainooth,
Kilcocke,
Rathaingan,
Kildare,
Lucianne,
Castletowne,
Philipstowne,
Mariborough,
Kilcullene,
Castlemarten,
Thistledermot,
Kilca,
Athie,
Catherlaugh,
Leighelen,
Gawranne,
Thomastowne,
Enestioche,
Cashelle,
Callanne,
Kilkennie,

Knoctofer,
Rosse,
Clonmelle,
Weiseford,
Fernes,
Fidderd,
Ennescortie,
Tathmon,
Wickloa,
Arkloa,

IN MUNSTER.
Waterford,
Lismore,
Doongarvan,
Yoghill,
Corke,
Limerick,
Kilmallocke.

IN CONNAUGHT.
Aloane,
Galuoie,
Anrie,

Loughriagh,
Clare.
Toame,
Sligaghe,
Rossecomman,
Arctlowne,

IN MEATH.
Trimme,
Dounshaghleene,
Rathlouth,
Nauanne,
Abovie,
Scrine,
Taraugh,
Kemles,
Doonboine,
Greenocke,
Duleeke,
Mulingare,
Fowre,
Loughscuder,
Kilkennie weste,
Moilagagh,
Deluinne.

succored, as that they make the whole citie in effect their hospital. The great expenses of the citizens may probablie be gathered by the woorthie and fair-like markets, weeklie on Wednesdaie and Fridaie kept in Dublin. Their shambles is so well stored with meat, and their market with corne, as not onlie in Ireland, but also in other countries you shall not see anie one shambles or anie one market better furnished with the one or the other than Dublin is." He describes Waterford as being properly builded and very compact, its citizens abounding in wealth in consequence of its foreign trade; and he says that they distilled the best *aqua vitæ*, and spun the choicest rug in Ireland. He states that the building of Limerick was sumptuous and substantial, and that Cork was happily planted on the sea, but so much infested by evil neighbours, the Irish out-laws, that they were forced to shut their gates at Church and meal times, nor suffer any stranger to enter their city with his weapon. Drogheda was accounted the best town in Ireland, and little inferior to some of the cities—Ross had fallen from its ancient greatness—Kilkenny was considered the best upland town in the kingdom; but Wexford was of little note except as the first fortress and harbour of the English conquerors.

In these places and generally within the Pale, English manners prevailed, and the inhabitants were consequently objects of hatred and contempt to the natives, who denominated them *Bobdeagh Galteagh*

or *Bobdeagh Saxonegh*, that is English Churls, or Saxon Churls. In the account which Hollingshed has left us of the character and manners of the *mere Irish*, there is probably considerable accuracy, though mixed with some exaggeration of their vices, for he allows that they also possessed many virtues. He describes them to be “*franke*, amorous, ireful, sufferable of infinite pains, vain glorious, manie sorcerers, excellent horsemen, delighted with wars, great almes-givers, passing in hospitalitie. The lewder sort are sensual and over loose in living; but the same, when vertuouslie bred up or reformed, are such mirrors of holinesse and austeritie that other nations retain but a shadow of devotion in comparison of them. As for abstinence and fasting, it is to them a familiar kind of chastisement. Greedie of praise they be and fearful of dishonour; and to this end they esteeme their poets, who write Irish learnedlie, and pen their sonnets heroically, for which they are bountifullie rewarded. The men are clean of skin and hew, of stature tall. The women are well favoured, clean coloured, fair handed, big and large, suffered from their infancie to grow at will, nothing curious of their feature and proportion of bodie. The infants of the meaner sort are neither swaddled nor lapped in linen, but folded up starke naked in a blanket till they can go. They love tenderlie their foster children, and bequeath to them a child's portion, whereby they nourish sure friendship, and

commonlie five hundred cows and better are given to win a nobleman's child to foster."

He describes their food to consist of various roots and herbs mixed with oatmeal and butter, and their drink milk, whey and beef-broth. They sometimes ate large quantities of flesh without bread, and upon these occasions indulged in copious draughts of *aqua vitæ*. 'No meat they fancie so much as porke, and the fatter the better. One of John Oneile's household demanded of his fellow whether beefe were better than porke? That (quoth the other) is as intricat a question, as to ask, whether thou art better than Oneile." When noblemen or their chief tenants made a feast, which was called *Coshering*, all their followers, rithmours, bards, and harpers, flocked to it and entertained the guests with musick; and when the harper twangeth or singeth a song, all the companie must be whist, or else he chafeth like a cutpurse, by reason his harmonie is not had in better price. Every nobleman has a tale-teller who bringeth his lord asleep with tales vain and frivolous. Without either precepts or observations of congruitie, they speak Latin like a vulgar language, learned in their common schools of leachecraft and law, whereat they begin children, and hold on sixteen or twentie years, conning by rote the aphorisms of Hippocrates, and the civil institutes, with a few other parings of those faculties. Other lawyers they have liable to certeine families, which after the custom of the countrie determine and

judge causes. These consider of wrongs offered and received among their neighbors—be it murther, felonie or trespasse, all is remedied by composition (except the grudge of parties seek revenge) and the time they have to spare from spoiling and preiding, they lightlie bestow in parling about such matters. The Breighon (so they call this kind of lawyer) sitteth on a bank, the lords and gentlemen at variance round about him, and then they proceed. To rob and spoil their enemies they deem it none offence, nor seek any means to recover their losse, but even to serve them the like turne. But if neighbors and friends send their purveyors to purloin one another, such actions are judged by the Breighon afore-said. They honour and reverence friers and pilgrims, by suffering them to passe quietlie, and by sparing their mansions, whatever outrage they shew to the countrie besides them. The like favours doe they extend to their poets and rithmours.”

Amongst the common people there appear to have been various degrees, and all were obliged to go on military service. Of these several classes Hollingshed gives at least a humorous description. “The basest sort among them are little yoong wags, called *Daltins*; these are lackies, and are serviceable to the *grooms* and *horseboies*, who are a degree above the *Daltins*. Of the third degree is the *Kerne*, who is an ordinarie souldior, using for his weapon his sword and target, and sometimes his peece, being commonlie so good markemen as they will come

within a score of a great castell. *Kerne* signifieth (as noblemen of deepe judgment informed me) a shower of hell, because they are taken for no better than rake-hells, or the divell's blackegard, by reason of the sturre they keepe wheresoever they be. The fourth degree is a *Galloglashe*, using a kind of pollax for his weapon. These men are commonly weeward rather by profession than by nature, grim of countenance, tall of stature, big of lim, burlie of bodie, well and strongly timbered, chiefly feeding on beefe, porke, and butter. The fift degree is to be an horseman; which is the chieftest next the lord and capteine. These horsemen, when they have no staie of their own, gad and range from house to house like arrant Knights of the Round Table, and they never dismount untill they ride into the hall, and as farre as the table. There is among them a brotherhood of *Karrowes*, that proffer to plaie at cards all the yeare long, and make it their onlie occupation. They plaie away mantel and all to the bare skin, and trusse themselves in straw or leaves; then they wait for passengers in the high-waie, invite them to game upon the greene, and ask no more than companions to make them sport." Ignorance, superstition and vice, appear at this time, from the united testimony of contemporary writers, to have overspread the great mass of society in Ireland.

The chief amusements of our forefathers in the higher ranks were hunting and other athletic exercises; which were generally followed, as at present,

by feasting and carousing. As the office of the Bard and the Harper was to enliven these entertainments by poetry and music, so that of the *Dresbheartach*, or Story Teller, to whom Hollingshed has alluded, was to amuse his Lord when he could not sleep, with the most extraordinary tales of Kings and Giants, Dwarfs, and Damsels. Sir William Temple informs us, that an Irish gentleman had told him, that when, in his wolf-huntings, he used to be abroad in the mountains three or four days together, and often unable to sleep at night, he had found more benefit from one of these Tale-tellers than any prescription of the physicians could give.

Though our Historians take little notice of the Dance, yet there can be no doubt, that this was one of the ancient amusements of this country, particularly amongst the inferior classes. Mr. O'Halloran describes it under the name of *Rinceadh-fada*, and James II. is said to have been received with it on his landing at Kinsale. O'Halloran, conceives it to have been the Dance of the Pagan-Irish during their festivals on the first of May* and first of August, called *Beal-tine* and *Lughnasa*, when fires were

* The custom of celebrating the 1st of May is not peculiar to Ireland, but fully agrees with the Floralia of the ancient Romans. On that day in Rome, and all over Italy, young persons of both sexes, repaired to the country at break of day, in order to cut down green boughs, which they brought home to ornament the houses of their friends and relatives. They afterwards danced in the streets, adorned with garlands, and crowned with wreaths of flowers.

lighted and sacrifices offered to the Sun on every lofty eminence; and he states that he had often seen the *Rinceadh-fada* danced in Limerick on May-eve by the butchers. Mr. O'Connor mentions the *Rinke*y, or Field Dance, in which the ancient Irish exercised themselves in their forests during their hunting excursions. It was generally performed in circles, required great agility and skill, and was considered an emblem of war, like the ancient Armed Dance of the Grecians. Hurling, cudgelling, &c. were among their country sports; rustic humour displayed itself in various ways at their fairs and patrons, and during the Christmas holy-days, as in England, companies of young men and maidens, called mummers, attended by rude musicians, went about carousing and dancing from house to house. Each mummer personated some celebrated saint, and before the dance began, stepped out of the circle which was formed, and declared his feigned name, country, qualifications, and other circumstances in a kind of doggrel rhyme. In this custom which prevailed in various countries, both of Europe and Asia, the Drama is supposed to have had its origin. All these pastimes are in use in many parts of Ireland to the present day.

The invention of printing which facilitated the translation and general diffusion of the Holy Scriptures, and the Reformation of Religion which speedily followed, effected a considerable melioration in the manners and character of the inhabitants of

the sister island towards the close of the sixteenth century. But in Ireland the policy of Spain and Rome united with the prejudices of the natives to resist the progress of what they considered an innovation on their ancient faith ; and a flame of insurrection quickly spread from North to South, which was suppressed by the effusion of torrents of blood, and punished with the forfeiture of the immense possessions of Desmond in Munster and O'Neill in Ulster. The lands thus confiscated were granted to English Knights and gentlemen, in portions of from 1000 to 12,000 acres, on conditions which were highly calculated to induce English and Scotch settlers to reside in those parts of the country which had been hitherto most averse to the English government. But the happy results which had been anticipated from this arrangement were frustrated by the distracted state of the country during the greater part of the seventeenth century, so that the commencement of the political regeneration of Ireland can only be dated from the accession of the House of Hanover to the throne of these realms. Since that period the progress of the country in population, commerce, and civilization has been truly astonishing, though much still remains to be done before Ireland is raised to that state of prosperity to which, we trust, she is destined by Providence.

The amazing increase of our population within the last two centuries has justly excited the wonder, and exercised the argumentative powers of our po-

litical economists. At the commencement of the seventeenth century the inhabitants of Ireland were computed at only 700,000. During the forty years of peace which followed the population was doubled; but it was again so much reduced by the sanguinary civil war of twenty years which succeeded the rebellion of 1641, during which *five armies* belonging to *five different parties* ravaged the country, that Sir William Petty reckoned it in 1671, at only 1,100,000, and in 1695 the enumeration of Captain South made it sixty thousand less. The population nearly doubled itself within the next forty years, for in 1731 it was estimated at 2,010,221. In 1788, (fifty-seven years afterwards,) Mr. Bushe computed it to be 4,040,000; and by the last Census which was taken in 1821, the returns were 6,801,829. We believe, that except the island of Malta, no State in Europe possesses so dense a population. In the following countries the number of persons to a square mile is as follows:—

Ireland.....	223	Wales.....	98
England.	207	France.....	144
Scotland.....	70	Germany.....	111

Thus Ireland is three times as populous as Scotland, once and a-half as populous as France, and twice as populous as Germany, while in a small proportion it exceeds that of England. In little more than a century the population of one county (Armagh) has increased eight-fold, of another (Louth) six-fold, and that of the metropolis five-fold; while the inhabi-

tants of London have been little more than doubled in the same period.*

* *Population of Ireland in 1821, according to the late Census.*

PROVINCE OF LEINSTER.

COUNTIES.	INHABITANTS.	CHIEF TOWNS.	INHABITANTS.
Carlow.....	78,952	Carlow.....	8,035
Dublin.....	335,892	Dublin.....	185,881
Kildare.....	99,065	Naas.....	3,073
Kilkenny.....	181,946	Kilkenny.....	23,230
King's County.....	131,088	Tullamore.....	5,517
Longford.....	107,570	Longford.....	3,783
Louth.....	101,011	Dundalk.....	9,256
Drogheda.....	18,118	Drogheda.....	18,118
Meath.....	159,183	Kells.....	3,618
Queen's County.....	134,275	Maryborough.....	2,677
Westmeath.....	128,819	Mullingar.....	3,684
Wexford.....	170,806	Wexford.....	8,326
Wicklow.....	110,767	Arklow.....	3,808
Total of Leinster.....	1,757,492		

PROVINCE OF MUNSTER.

Clare.....	208,089	Ennis.....	6,701
Cork.....	730,444	Cork.....	100,658
Kerry.....	216,185	Tralee.....	7,547
Limerick.....	277,477	Limerick.....	59,045
Tipperary.....	346,896	Clonmel.....	15,590
Waterford.....	156,521	Waterford.....	28,679
Total of Munster.....	1,935,612		

PROVINCE OF ULSTER.

Antrim.....	270,883	Belfast.....	37,277
Armagh.....	197,427	Armagh.....	8,493
Cavan.....	195,076	Cavan.....	2,322
Donegall.....	248,270	Letterkenny.....	2,458
Down.....	325,410	Newry.....	10,013
Fermanagh.....	130,997	Enniskillen.....	2,399
Londonderry.....	193,869	Londonderry.....	9,310
Monaghan.....	174,697	Monaghan.....	3,738
Tyrone.....	261,865	Strabane.....	4,136
Total of Ulster.....	1,998,494		

PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT.

Galway.....	337,374	Galway.....	27,775
Leitrim.....	124,785	Carrick-on-Shannon.....	1,673
Mayo.....	293,112	Castlebar.....	5,404
Boscommon.....	208,729	Athlone.....	7,543
Sligo.....	146,229	Sligo.....	9,283
Total of Connaught.....	1,110,320		

RECAPITULATION,

LEINSTER.....	1,757,492	ULSTER.....	1,998,494
MUNSTER.....	1,935,412	CONNAUGHT.....	1,110,320
Total,	6,801,829.		

Many attempts have been made to account for this rapid increase of population in a country where poverty and wretchedness so generally abound. Perhaps the true solution of the difficulty is, that while encouragements have been held out to early marriages by a mischievously minute division of land for mercenary or political purposes, no adequate efforts have been hitherto made for employing the superabundant population thus created. A hovel with a patch of land for a potatoe garden, is the only property with which a young peasant and his wife begin the world, and with these, and occasionally a day's work, he looks forward to bring up a family as he himself has been brought up, for this is generally the boundary of his hopes. Their constant food is potatoes and skimmed milk, if they are able to keep a cow, which with the pig and the poultry, constitute at night a part of the family—a practice which arises not from choice but necessity. Except on the sea-coast, animal food is tasted only at a festival or a wedding, and though the cloathing of the peasantry is improved in some districts, yet in general it is little superior to their food. All this misery is flippantly attributed by some to the inherent vices of the Irish character—the Irish peasant is said to be ignorant, indolent, and intemperate. But innumerable instances may be brought to prove that these are the consequences and not the causes of his degraded situation. Place him in more favourable circumstances, teach him his duty to God and to

Society, give him such employment as may excite a hope that there is a possibility of bettering his condition, and he will be found, with all his eccentricities, as acute, as intelligent and as industrious as his more fortunate brethren of the sister island.* High rents,

* A pamphlet on the Population and Resources of Ireland, was published a few years back by Doctor Whitley Stokes, which is well worthy the attention of all who are interested in the prosperity of this country. He successfully combats the theory of Mr. Malthus, that population increases faster than the means of subsistence, and clearly proves that the misery of Ireland arises not from want of those means, but from the neglect of cultivating them to adequate limits. He suggests various improvements in the relation between landlord and tenant, in the modes of agriculture and in the management of stock, and gives some most valuable hints respecting our manufactures, fisheries, and coast improvements. In his remarks on the condition of the Irish peasantry, he gives the following proof out of thousands which might be adduced of their industrious propensities whenever the slightest prospect of success is presented :—"A farmer of twenty-three years of age gave me the following account of his progress in life. He married pennyless at eighteen, worked as a day-labourer, his wife spun; he went for one season to England, from whence he brought home, clear of expense, twenty-one pounds, and returned home for the potatoe-digging; he travelled to Connaught for flax, which he sold in Kilkenny: three years after his marriage he had saved sixty pounds; he took a farm, and when I conversed with him two years later I understood it was well stocked." We fully agree with Dr. Stokes in his observations on the system of itinerant labourers, to which the Steam Navigation now presents such facilities. "The Irish labourer acquires knowledge as well as money by his travels. He sees the modes of industry in various parts of the United Islands, learns the prices of produce, and makes his profit by his knowledge." We would add, that it is also calculated to im-

tythes, absenteeism, and politico-religious distinctions, have each been considered the prime cause of our evils. We are, however, inclined to view them as only additional weights to the grand *incubus* which presses down our country, and to concede the fatal pre-eminence to want of full employment and of that species of moral and religious culture, which would not render the peasantry discontented with the station in which Providence has placed them, but would enable them to reap from it all the advantages of which it is capable. These are the fatal pillars on which the superstructure of our misery rests ; remove them and the lesser evils will be speedily meliorated without danger of collision from conflicting interests. Ireland now forms an integral, a vital portion of the British Empire : she abounds with the raw material of industry, and with millions anxious to be employed in its cultivation—while the physical powers of the sister country are so exhausted, that the aids of mechanics and chemistry must be called in to supply the deficiency of human labour.* There every field of industry is occupied, and millions of capital remains unemployed, which if appropriated to the conversion of our bogs, mountains, and glens into arable and pasture lands, giving life to our ma-

prove the manners of our peasantry, and excite greater attention to domestic comforts ; and we believe it is a generally admitted fact, that the interchange of the militia of both countries during the late war, was productive of very beneficial consequences in these particulars in many parts of this country.

* It has been calculated that the Steam-engine alone per-

nufactures, working our mines, and extending our fisheries, would completely change the face of things in this country, and return to the owners a manifold increase. The time is at an end when Irish effort should excite the jealousy of our English brethren. Our prosperity is absolutely essential to the permanence of their own : our population is increasing in a greater ratio, and if their friendship be not conciliated by substantial justice and kindness, their enmity may prove dangerous at no distant period. We are sensible that many English capitalists are deterred from employing their money in this country, under apprehensions of its insecurity, because of the frequent instances of popular turbulence which occur. But we conceive that these fears are chimerical. Give full employment to the Irish peasant, and notwithstanding the religious animosities which prevail amongst us, these ebullitions will become less frequent, and in the end wholly cease. Even John Bull has occasional fits of irritation when trade is low and money scarce—but keep his hands employed and his belly full, and he speedily resumes his accustomed tranquillity.*

forms the labour of nearly two millions of individuals in the sister country.

* The advantages of a reciprocity of kindness between the sister islands have been touched on with so much good sense by Doctor Stokes that we must indulge ourselves in another quotation of some length from his concluding appeal to all who *should be* interested in the prosperity of Ireland :—“ Let it be the fashion to encourage the manufacture

Ignorance of the real state of Ireland as it respects her wants, her capabilities of improvement, and her resources, has been a principal cause why those resources have been so long neglected, or inadequately

of woollens and linens by the fire-side of the cottager, for the comfort of the family. Let all the impediments to the coast trade and fisheries be removed, which can be removed with safety to the revenue; let all the means of inland navigation be diligently extended, copying rather the cheap and diminutive scale of semi-barbarous nations, than the extensive structures of wealthy societies. Let roads be constructed on true principles and the money levied for them be fairly expended. Endeavour to procure for us internal peace by justice and patience. If these things are done we can supply the empire with hardy men, and good provisions, on easy terms; and we may contribute to the necessities of the empire, in proportion to our capital, not indeed to our numbers or our surface. In estimating our contribution, we should have credit for all the absentee rents spent in England. Philosophers and manufacturers of England, you are the men I fear. Do not fret about our numbers. Let us all be friends, with ourselves first, and then with you. Can your friends be too many? What does it concern you, whether we eat our potatoes or give them to the pigs? Why should we not eat potatoes, if we like them? Do not let us dispute about tastes. The French eat frogs: the Germans are proud of their sour krout: the Greenlanders delight in seals' blood: the Ottomacks, on the Orinoco, eat clay. What need John Bull care what trash the rest of the world devour, while he has roast-beef and pudding. Some of us eat roast meat with our potatoes, some bacon, some salt herrings, butter-milk, plain salt. Let us alone; the more potatoes, and pigs, and children we have, the more men and provisions you can have when you want them, and the cheaper. I have one favour to beg of you: we have got a little wool; do not object to our twisting up a little to cover our nakedness, and wrap up our children in the frosty nights. No people are so easily fed. This is what we ask of you: let us have a little cloathing of

cultivated. Many of our Nobility and Gentry, whose presence would encourage industry, and whose influence would promote good order and obedience to the laws on their several estates have taken up their residence in foreign lands, squandering on exotic pleasures the money which is wrung from their starving tenantry. In a country where the most pressing necessities of the great mass of the people have been so much neglected, literature and the fine arts must necessarily droop, because those who should be their natural protectors have abandoned the land of their birth, and Irish genius, which, when cultivated and cherished, has often illumined the nations by its lustre, and edified them by its intelligence, lies buried in darkness, like the rough diamond in the quarry. But it must be consolatory to every sincere lover of Ireland, that a spirit of examination into her real wants and interests is now in active operation on both sides of the Channel; a spirit which we conceive to have been in no small degree excited by the publication, a few years since, of the Statistical Account or Parochial Sur-

our own, and having food and raiment we shall be content. But fear not, we will not be content. The moment we feel whole clothes on our backs, we will quit burning our shins over the fire; some effort for profit will be made, and, then we must be genteel; whatever you say will make us look like ladies and gentlemen, that we buy, name you the price; merely allow us to procure for ourselves absolute necessities; do not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn, the harvest is your own, trust confidently to our inexhaustible folly."

vey of Ireland, drawn up from the communications of the Clergy, by William Shaw Mason, Esq. Mr. Mason was stimulated to engage in this useful undertaking by the successful example of Sir John Sinclair, who has by a process of this kind fully unfolded the whole resources of Scotland, whether depending upon man or upon inanimated nature. But public spirit, which in Scotland enabled Sir John Sinclair to complete his great work, which extended to fifty octavo volumes, subsided in this country after three volumes on the State of Ireland had made their appearance. Apprehensive from the general apathy on the subject which then prevailed, that such might be the result, Mr. Mason judiciously selected the reports which he published from the four provinces, thus giving a comparative view of the state of the agriculture, arts, manufactures, religion, education, and resources of each, with the manners, customs, and character of the people ; and the volumes which have been published afford an indubitable pledge, that should a more propitious state of things facilitate the completion of the work, it would prove of vast importance to the best interests of the British Empire.

The education of our peasantry is still lamentably defective, notwithstanding the various plans which have been devised and partially carried into effect by those benevolent spirits who now so happily abound amongst us. Where their efforts have had free scope the moral desert has soon begun to

smile, and the noble character of our youth has been developed freed from the impurities of ignorance and vice. But we fear the time is yet distant when those impediments shall be removed which now oppose the adoption of a general comprehensive system of instruction, founded on such principles of religion and morality as would meet the approbation of all parties, which could alone render the education of the peasantry safe or desirable as a national object. Where religious animosities prevail, the badge of faction deforms even the charities of life ; and many are to be found who refuse to co-operate in works of mercy with those who differ from them in their creed. They will ultimately prove to be the best friends of Ireland, who by a different line of conduct exhibit the possibility of living in union as fellow-citizens and members of the same commonwealth, while differing on some points as Christians ; and this may be accomplished without any compromise of principle, or any relaxation of effort in that cause to which they are sincerely and conscientiously attached.

NATURAL BEAUTIES AND ANTIQUITIES.

The topography of Ireland may appear to possess little interest in the eyes of those who view with an affectation of contempt all places unconnected with classical associations, who can only be roused to admiration by the sublimities of Alpine grandeur, and delighted by the luxuriance which blooms under the genial warmth of an Italian sky. Yet Ireland abounds

in natural beauties not unworthy of the highest efforts of the poet's fire, and with innumerable objects connected with the history, and the manners of former ages, which have been to the present too much neglected. Of these it is not our intention to enter into any minute description, but rather to call the attention of the naturalist and the antiquary to the delineation of subjects which are well calculated to elevate our country in the estimation both of natives and of foreigners.

Ireland is situated between $51^{\circ} 19'$ and $55^{\circ} 23'$ of north latitude, and between $5^{\circ} 19'$ and $10^{\circ} 28'$ west longitude. Its greatest length from Fair-head in the county of Antrim to Mizen-head in the county of Cork, is 241 Irish or 306 English miles, and its greatest breadth about 150 Irish or 190 English miles. For want of an accurate survey, the superficial contents of the island cannot be stated with certainty, but Dr. Beaufort computes them at 18,750 square miles, or above nineteen millions of acres. Of these near four millions are bogs or waste lands : the waters of Ireland occupy near seven hundred thousand acres : roads, towns and buildings about twenty thousand ; sterile mountains above three hundred thousand, and the remaining fourteen millions are subject to tillage or pasture. According to the statement of Mr. Newenham, the sinuous line of Irish coast, exclusive of such parts as lie within estuaries, or above the first good anchorage in every harbour, but exclusive of the river Shannon as far as the

tide reaches, and the shores of Bantry Bay, Dunmanus Bay, and Kenmare River, will, if accurately followed through all its windings, be found to measure 1,737 miles. Along this coast numerous commanding promontories form noble havens, capable of containing the largest navies, while a great part of it is skirted with fertile islands, above one hundred of which are inhabited.

The aspect of the country does not generally present those grand and striking features for which Scotland and Wales are so remarkable; yet elevations of considerable height are to be met with on the coast, particularly on the shores of Antrim and Wicklow. In the interior there are no long ranges of mountains, as in other countries, if we except the ridge which extends from near Dungarvan to the county of Kerry, and the mountains of Mourne and Iveagh in the county of Down. The other mountains are dispersed throughout the island in unconnected masses, and mostly covered with verdure to their summit; and there are few parts where the prospect is not somewhere terminated by this species of majestic scenery, forming a back ground seldom more remote than twenty miles. Kerry, Leitrim, Mayo, Wicklow, Donegall, and Antrim present mountainous tracts abounding in wild and romantic views; and in the first of these counties, Mac Gillicuddy's Reeks tower in majestic grandeur near 4000 feet above the level of the sea. In the centre of the island the rude magnificence of the Galtees

and Sliehbloom appears in bold contrast with a vast extent of level or gently undulated country, rich in every species of cultivation.* Thus, as Mr.

*It affords cause of gratulation to every lover of Ireland, that at the present day public attention is so much directed not only to her politics and statistics, but to those innumerable beauties which ornament her surface. Many writers of no ordinary talent have entered this service with patriotic ardour, and we trust their useful labours will produce the happy effect of causing Ireland to be more visited, the result of which, we are satisfied would be a conviction that she possesses various attractions for the admirers of nature, and the lovers of antiquities. The prospect from the summit of Sliebh-bloom mountain is described in the following glowing and picturesque language in a recent number of the Christian Examiner, a popular periodical work :
“ This mountain forms a long and not very lofty chain, dividing the King’s and Queen’s Counties ; it lies nearly in the centre of Ireland, and the waters taking their rise from its eastern side flow by means of the Suir, Nore and Barrow, into the sea at Waterford, while those descending from its western ridge, flow into the Shannon, the great central drain of Ireland. There is a glorious view from it to the north, the mountains of Wicklow to the east, the mountains of Iduah, in which is the rich coal field of Castlecomer, to the south ; in the far distance the sharp and peaked points of the Galtee mountains—nearer still the magnificent and lofty Keeper, (so called from its arresting the clouds passing from the Atlantic Ocean, and keeping in unsettled weather a wreath of mist as a helmet on its angry head ;) to the west, the mountains of Clare and Galway, and the magnificent broad valley in which the Shannon expands itself into a lake, and forms what is called Lough Derg. Immediately under the mountain range on which I was standing, lay that part of the County Tipperary surrounding the town of Roscrea, and that part of the King’s County called the Barony of Clonlisk. The features of this district are naturally beautiful, and they are highly improved by cultivation and planting ; I know no part of Ireland more diversified in natural feature, and

Young remarks, "The mountains of Ireland give to travelling that interesting variety with which a flat country can never abound: and, at the same time,

no part of England more ornamentally wooded—the country so hilly, so abrupt, so variegated, that it looks as if it had been once liquid, and in the midst of some mighty storm its waves had been solidified, and all its gulphs and surges perpetuated in the billowy agitation. Directly under my eye lay the beautiful green hill of Golden Grove, with a red oak-wood climbing up its side and clothing half its surface; and still further west, about six miles off, that hill, consecrated in the supposition of the people, as the haunt and favourite resort of fairies—the beautiful Knocksheegowna, a hill now celebrated by being made the scene of a lively Irish tale from the pen of Mr. Croker." The same lively writer thus introduces us to Holy Island, or the Seven Churches in the Shannon. "At the sudden turning of a shrubby island, Inniscealtra, with its lofty round tower and its ruined churches, on which the sun was shining brilliantly, broke upon our view. It really was a very striking object. The island, extremely fertile, covered with fine cattle, and containing about fifty acres, rose like an emerald gem chased in silver, out of the glassy surface of the water, and stood in relief and beautiful contrast with the adjoining shore of the county of Galway, that stretched in the back ground a wild and mountainous tract. To the south lay the county of Clare, wooded to the water's edge, and rising behind in a lofty and precipitous mountain—to the east the shores of Ormond, green with corn fields and cultivation, with the interspersed seats and wooded demesnes of its numerous gentry, and a ruined castle on every bold promontory and commanding hill. Neither Rhine or Rhone, or Constance or Geneva, would on this fine summer day present a more glowing, vivid, or happy picture." The more magnificent features of a northern landscape are presented to us by the same hand, during an excursion along the coast of Donegall and Derry, and we trust this pen of intelligence and taste will not relax in its patriotic labours, until it has produced effects of equal importance to this country

they are not in such number as to confer the usual character of poverty which attends them."

There are few districts of Ireland deficient in that as those which have resulted to Scotland from the literary exertions of the Author of *Waverley*. A work on the Beauties of Ireland, by J. N. Brewer, Esq. an English gentleman is now in progress, and promises to give powerful aid to the cause which we are advocating. The first volume has already made its appearance, and comprehends the county and city of Dublin, the counties of Wicklow, Wexford and Kilkenny, with beautiful graphic illustrations of Irish scenery. Mr. Brewer spent many months in his tour of this country, and the specimen of his work which has appeared, evinces that he has directed all the force of a liberal and intelligent mind to the elucidation of his subject. Fidelity, candour, and accuracy mark all his delineations, and his production promises to form a pleasing contrast to those of some other English tourists, whose writings have too frequently teemed with unfounded and supercilious observations on the country and the people. These efforts to raise the character of Ireland to its proper level will, we trust, excite in the minds of our Nobility and Gentry a laudable anxiety to become more acquainted with the treasures it contains, and the research would convince them that it abounds with objects of interest both for the curious and the contemplative. The admirer of rural beauty in all its varied forms may be here fully gratified, while the man who delights in antiquarian lore will in Ireland find numerous monuments connected with the annals of a nation, whose history from the most remote period has been so marked by vicissitudes as to render them, at this day, perhaps, the most singularly circumstanced people in Europe. Were a home tour considered as necessary to a finished education as a foreign one, our high born youth might visit other countries possessed of the necessary accomplishment of being able to describe their own, in which too many of them are lamentably defective. Their foreign friends might thus be induced to return the visit, and Ireland would no longer be considered as beyond

element which gives such brilliancy to every landscape. Scarcely any part is full fifty miles distant from the coast, and the country is watered by more than a hundred rivers which flow into the sea or its various inlets : of these the Shannon is the chief. This noble river has its rise in the county of Leitrim, from whence it proceeds through the counties of Roscommon, Longford, Westmeath, Galway, King's County, Tipperary, Clare, Limerick, and Kerry, and after a course of 170 miles, falls into the Atlantic Ocean with a vast volume several miles in breadth. The Barrow, Nore, Suir, Blackwater, and many other rivers of inferior magnitude, water the south and east, while the Bann, the Boyne, and the Foyle, flow through the various counties of the North. Lakes are numerous in every province, and some of them exceed in magnitude any that are to be found in the sister country. They are generally surrounded by lofty mountains or by hills in high cultivation, and their shores ornamented with the seats of the gentry, varying in extent and magnificence : many of them are studded with islands, some of which are inhabit-

the pale of polished nations. We feel happy that this opinion is fully supported by the liberal and intelligent Author of the Beauties of Ireland, who closes his description of the county of Wicklow in the following words :—"The splendor of nature in many parts of Wicklow, transcends, indeed, the powers of "prose or rhyme ;" nor have the warmest efforts of the pencil ever communicated a due notion of scenery so truly captivating. No native of the British dominions can be justified in travelling to Italy and Switzerland, in search of beauty, until he has visited the county of Wicklow."

ed, and the greater number smiling in fertility and animated with numerous herds of cattle. The Lakes of greatest extent and celebrity are Lough Erne in Fermanagh, Lough Neagh in Antrim, Lough Corrib in Galway, and Lough Lean, (the far-famed triple Lake of Killarney,) in Kerry. The length of Lough Erne is more than thirty miles, its breadth varies from fifteen miles to three, and it covers an extent of 123,601 acres. Above its glossy surface appear numerous islets rich in verdure, and upon one of them stands the celebrated town of Enniskillen. Many noblemen and gentlemen have finely wooded demesnes along the borders of the Lake, and on every side a richly cultivated country presents itself, backed in the distance by lofty mountains. Lough Neagh is little inferior in extent to Lough Erne, and the surrounding prospects though less picturesque are yet highly attractive: this lake is famous for its fisheries, and communicates its benefits to five different counties. On its shores have been found a great variety of beautiful pebbles, crystals, corneli-ans, agates, and other precious stones, and its waters are remarkable for a petrifying quality.

No object in Ireland has been so celebrated among foreigners as the Lake of Killarney. The poet and the painter have vainly essayed to give some faint ideas of this combination of all that we consider the sublime and beautiful in nature, and which once called forth the admirable reply of a patriotic Irish Nobleman to a King of France, when he enquired

if the Lake of Killarney could be compared with his Versailles. "Sire," said the Nobleman, "another King of France could make another Versailles—none but the King of Heaven could make another Killarney." Our limits confine us to a very brief sketch of this wonderful exhibition of Divine workmanship. Its length is about six English miles, its medium breadth three, and its superficial contents above six thousand Irish acres. It is divided into three distinct lakes, called the Lower, Mucruss, and Upper Lake, connected by a serpentine river. The Lower Lake presents a vast expanse of water environed by the mountains of Glenaa and Tomies covered with forests to the water edge, the beautiful peninsula of Mucruss, and highly cultivated land interspersed with houses of dazzling whiteness. Over one side of Mucruss Lake, Turk Mountain presides with an air of majestic sublimity, while the opposite side is indented with innumerable little rocky shaded bays which appear like the work of enchantment. The coast of this lake is decorated with a continued wood of arbutus, holly, and other trees of the richest foliage, while the shore composed of limestone presents numerous caverns, supported by pillars, on which the water is making daily inroads. The strait which unites Mucruss with the Upper Lake, winds an intricate course more than three miles through rocks of fantastic shape, and some of considerable elevation. Of these that called the Eagle's Nest rises to a stupendous height. About half way up, its sides are

covered with a vast theatre of wood, and from thence arises a perpendicular rock of marble tinged with white and purple, near the summit of which the king of birds builds his eyrie. A gun discharged against this mountain produces an astonishing effect, the report reverberating amongst the hills for a considerable time like distant thunder. On entering the Upper Lake a scene of the most awful sublimity presents itself. An expanse of water, a league in length and about three quarters of a mile in breadth, is environed on every side by high grounds and lofty mountains. To the north west, Mount Ghirmeen and M'Gillcuddy's Reeks, the highest land in Ireland, form an extensive amphitheatre. On the south, the Lake is confined by Cromiglaun covered with a luxuriant copse to the water's edge, which terminating in a sloping bank towards the east forms one side of the finely wooded glen of Derrycunihy, through the centre of whose rocky channel the Kavoge rolls a considerable stream. The numerous islands, rocks and cascades which abound in these Lakes add their various charms to the scenery, and the whole forms a combination of natural sublimity and beauty that cannot be surpassed in any country.

On the coast of Antrim, at the opposite extremity of the island, the Giant's Causeway exhibits in a different form the stupendous workmanship of nature. The Causeway is situated within eight miles of Colerain, and extends into the sea from the foot of a high mountain more than six hundred feet. It consists

of innumerable pillars generally pentagonal and hexagonal, and from fifteen to twenty inches diameter. Each column is composed of several joints, and its height above the ground is from thirty to forty feet. When one part of a pillar is separated from another, one piece is generally concave and the other convex, though they are sometimes found to be joined by nearly a flat surface. The substance of the stone is of so hard a texture, as to resist the edge of the best tools, and is consequently unfit for fine architecture; but it admits of a good polish, and Doctor Molyneux conceived that it agreed with a kind of Ethiopic marble described by Pliny. Besides the Causeway, other ranges of similar pillars are to be found on this part of the coast, and the whole is conjectured to be of volcanic origin.

From this slight glance at the Natural Beauties of Ireland, we turn to the Monuments of Antiquity which exist amongst us, and which may be divided into two classes, military and ecclesiastical. To the former belong the Rathes and Dûns, which abound throughout the country. These terms are used promiscuously by our ancient historians to signify a fortified place, situated on a hill or rising ground. The Rathes are of various dimensions, some not measuring more than ten or fifteen yards in diameter, while others occupy a space of eighteen or twenty acres. They were generally encircled with a single, double, or triple rampart, and the inner part divided into chambers, which have

been variously conjectured to have been used as habitations, granaries, or sepulchres. Mr. Harris asserts, that in a hill near Castle-Connor in the county of Sligo, many subterraneous vaults or chambers were accidentally discovered in the year 1640—that they were quadrangular, and built of vast stones arch-wise, over which a great quantity of earth was heaped, and formed into a hill. Mr. Molyneux supposes that these caves, being small and without light, could never be intended for the habitations of men, but that they were contrived for the convenient disposal of their stores, arms and provisions, which were thus secured from the weather and the enemy; and it is not improbable that they also afforded shelter to the women and children when the fort was attacked. Dr. Ledwich, following Cambrensis, conceives that these fortifications were erected by the Danes, but Mr. Harris is of opinion that they were in use amongst the Irish long before the arrival of that people, in which he is strengthened by the fact that *Rath* in the ancient Irish, signifies security, sometimes a village, and in a metaphorical sense an artificial Fort or Barrow, as it is called in England. Spenser states, that in his time it was a common practice among the Irish to assemble in large numbers upon the Rath to decide disputes in a judicial manner between township and township. From this circumstance, it also got the name of *Lios* or the Court, and for the same reason it was styled *Moat*, a word, says Dr. Ledwich, evidently of Teutonic or Gothic origin.

The Dûn, another species of fortification, was originally an insulated rock, which, as Mr. O'Connor states, the Irish used as a temporary habitation, made up with thick ditches of earth, square or circular, impaled with wooden stakes, and surrounded with a deep trench. The area within the Dûn was raised high, so that they might annoy an attacking enemy with more advantage. Dr. Ledwich conceives that in the Dûn described by Mr. O'Connor, were included both the Rath and the Daingean, which the English called a Bawn, and this he considers to have been the primitive Celtic fortification, which was made by digging a ditch, throwing up a rampart, and on the latter fixing stakes which were interlaced with boughs of trees. Traces of these various military works are to be found in almost every part of Ireland, and they have given names to all the towns beginning with *Rath*, *Lis*, or *Dun*. When the Danes and Norwegians obtained possession of the principal towns, they surrounded them with walls of lime and stone with round keeps or towers at the angles, one of which is still in good preservation in the city of Waterford. It is called Reginald's Tower, and is probably the oldest building of this description in Ireland, having been erected in the year 1003 by a Danish Prince of that name. Mr. Grose says that there are towers of a similar construction at Seskin in the county of Kilkenny, and at Grant's-town in the Queen's County.

The English followed the example of the Ostmen by erecting numerous castles for the defence of their

conquests. Cambrensis advised Henry II. to sow the island with them at proper places, and not to erect them at such remote distances, that they should not be able to assist each other. Before the close of the twelfth century Leinster and Meath were castellated by De Lacy; many castles were erected in Ulster by De Courcey; the castles of Limerick, Ardfinnan, Nenagh, Lismore and Tybrack were built by King John, while others were constructed in Cork by Cogan and Fitz-Stephen. It was some centuries before the Irish followed the example of their adversaries. This arose in part from their natural abhorrence of confinement, and partly from the unwillingness of the chieftains to incur expense on buildings which, by the law of gavel-kind, would never descend to their heirs. But when they consented to hold their lands by English tenures, they began to provide for posterity, by building castles and improving their possessions. Their number increased with astonishing rapidity, for the Chief, who was lord paramount, enfeoffed his family and kinsmen in lesser lordships, and of course they also erected castles, to which they were urged by a principle of self-preservation in times when hostility and anarchy raged on every side. At the forfeiture of the lands in Munster towards the close of the sixteenth century, Queen Elizabeth obliged every grantee to construct a castle, fort, or bawn, for the protection of his family and tenants. On the confiscation of the lands of the chieftains O'Neil and O'Donnel in Ulster, in

1606, James I. bound each undertaker to similar conditions. If he had two thousand acres he was, within two years, to build a castle, surrounded by a court or bawn; if he had fifteen hundred acres, he was to erect a stone or brick house—if less than that number, a bawn only. In consequence of these regulations, there were erected in a few years in six of the northern counties, above one hundred and twenty castles, and the possessors of escheated land in every part of the kingdom being bound to make similar erections, great numbers of English and Scots were encouraged to settle even in the most uncivilized places—many corporate towns were erected, walled towns built, and castles increased so prodigiously, that it is computed there were not less than three or four thousand scattered throughout the country. The frowning ruins of many still remain as the solitary monuments of a long and gloomy period of distraction and anarchy. Some of them appear to have been large and well fortified, and sufficiently strong to bear a long siege against artillery: others were keeps or round towers of lime and stone, sometimes surrounded with a circular wall; and a third description were castellated houses with battlements and flankers. It may be supposed that fortified places of this description possessed little security against ordnance which had been introduced into Ireland long before the reign of Elizabeth: but it should be recollected that great guns and fire-arms of every class were still very little employed in

warfare, as will appear from the following statement of the Munster militia in 1584, and which also exhibits a comparative view of the population of the principal cities and towns at that time, when an Act of Parliament ordered every man from sixteen to sixty to be provided with proper arms, and exercised:—

	Shot	Billmen		Shot	Billmen
City of Waterford,	300	300	Town of Kilmallock	20	100
— Cork.....	100	300	— Fethard.....	20	100
— Limerick...	200	600	— Kingsale...	20	100
— Cashel.....	20	140	— Carrick.....	20	40
Town of Clonmel..	40	200			
				740	1880

The remaining militia of the province numbered only 178 Shot and 2640 Billmen.*

* In the introduction to Mr. Grose's *Antiquities*, we have an interesting view of the progress of the military art in Ireland. We have already noticed the constitution of the Irish army previous to the arrival of the English, and which was in a great measure maintained by the native chieftains till the suppression of the feudal system. Their contests with the English obliged them to make alterations in their ancient arms, and the two parties soon became almost assimilated. The *hobillers* bore lances, bows, arrows, and a sword; and Spenser tells us that in his time the Irish horseman had his long hose, his riding shoes of costly cordovan, his bacqueton or doublet stuffed with wool, and his haubergeon or short coat of mail. They seldom rode on geldings, and to be seen on a mare was considered disgraceful. The *Gallowglasses*, or heavy armed infantry, wore a long shirt of mail which reached to the calf of the leg, and a bacinet, or iron helmet on the head. Their arms were a long sword by the side, and in the hand a broad axe, double edged, and sharp as a razor. The *Kerns* had short swords or spears, and javelins to which a thong was fastened:

With very few exceptions, the ruins alone remain of those ancient piles which afforded protection to the neighbouring districts in times

the latter they twirled violently, and sent with amazing force and execution. They substituted iron gauntlets for shields, and some had bows and quivers with short bearded arrows: their march was in general disorderly, great noise and confusion was kept up by the perpetual clashing of swords, and their onset against an enemy was furious in the extreme.

The first military force established in Ireland by Act of Parliament was in the reign of Edward IV. and consisted of one hundred and twenty archers on horseback, forty horsemen, and forty pages. In Queen Mary's reign it was twelve hundred men, and in Elizabeth's two thousand. In 1489, fire-arms were first introduced from Germany, six muskets being presented to the Earl of Kildare, which he gave to his guards. This was thirty-two years before hand-guns were known in England. Henry VII. appears to have been alarmed at the introduction of these new instruments of destruction into Ireland, for in 1495 an act was passed, ordering that no person should retain in his house or garrison any ordnance or artillery, that is to say, great gun, or hand gun except only long bows, arrows, or bills. The army at both sides engaged in the Irish wars appear to have been so ill furnished with ordnance, that as late as the middle of the seventeenth century we read of eighteen thousand men having but four pieces of cannon. For want of artillery, the Irish in their sieges made use of a machine called a Sow to sap the walls, and this appears to have been peculiar to our countrymen, as well as another military practice recorded by Strada, who says that when Sir William Pelham, in 1586, led fourteen hundred Irish archers into the Low Countries, they passed the rivers mounted on stilts.

In 1391, the pay of the Irish army under the Duke of Clarence was rated thus: the Earl of Ormond for himself four shillings, and for two Knights two shillings; seventeen Esquires twelve pence, twenty hobillers armed sixpence, and

of anarchy and warfare. The Castle of Kilkenny, however, still continues the magnificent residence of the noble House of Ormond. It is situated in the immediate vicinity of that city, and its original foundation is supposed to have been laid in 1172, by Richard Earl Strongbow, soon after he was invested with the principality of Leinster. The first erection being destroyed by Donald O'Brien, King of Limerick, the castle was re-edified by William Marshal Earl of Pembroke, son-in-law of Strongbow, in 1195, and it has since that period been much enlarged and improved. In 1391, Hugh le Despencer, Earl of Gloucester and Lord of Kilkenny, a descendant of the Earl of Pembroke in the female line, sold the Castle and its dependencies to James Butler, Earl of Ormond, by whose descendants it is still occupied. It appears to have been a place of considerable strength, being situated on

twenty not armed four pence each per day, to guard the marches of Leinster. O'Kennedy, an Irish Chieftain, had for himself twelve pence, eleven hobillers four pence, and eighty-eight archers on foot three half-pence each, while other chiefs and their followers were paid at a similar rate. The expenses of the military list had increased considerably in 1540: though the army did not number quite six hundred men, it amounted to near 8000*l.* exclusive of artillery. The Lord Deputy's annual stipend was 666*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* The Master of the Ordnance's 48*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* and the charge of the Ordnance was £40. The pay of a Captain was rated at four shillings, a petty Captain two shillings, a horseman and a harquebuss nine pence, and an archer six pence per day. By the 10th of Henry VII. it was enacted that no soldier on his journey should pay more than five farthings for one meal, and four for his servant, and for every horse a penny, with six sheaves and litter.

elevated ground abrupt and precipitous, at the base of which ran the river Nore. Here the side of the hill was faced with solid masonry forty feet high, while the other parts were defended by bastions and other out-works, with the castle on the summit. Three round towers of the ancient building still remain, to which various additions were made in the seventeenth century by the first Duke of Ormond, in the heavy style of architecture of that period, and here that great, but unfortunate nobleman, often entertained at his table two hundred gentlemen. The apartments in the Castle are deficient in the decorations and arrangements of more modern buildings, but they suggest to the visitor historical recollections full of the most lively interest, and the splendid gallery of portraits, as well as the tapestry with which several of the rooms are hung, must ever be considered objects of peculiar attraction.

The Castle of Ferns, now in ruins, is also interesting in an historical point of view, as its first foundation was laid by Earl Strongbow, on the site of the palace of his father-in-law King Dermot. But being destroyed soon after, it was rebuilt by one of the Fitzgeralds at the close of the twelfth century, and was held of the crown by military service as one of the royal castles. From that period it underwent various vicissitudes until its demolition in the seventeenth century by Sir Charles Coote, the Parliament General.

Of this once formidable pile only one tower and the half of another now remain.

To a military man, perhaps, none of our ancient fortresses deserves more notice than the Castle of Dunamase, in the Queen's County. It was situated four miles east of Maryborough on a Dûn or insulated rock, the site, according to Ptolemy, of the ancient Dunum, which had formerly been a strong hold of the Irish. This part of Leinster was the ancient property of the Chieftain O'Morethie or O'More of Leix, and was granted by Strongbow to William de Braos or Bruce, Lord of Brecknock, who in 1250, built the castle, and erected it into a manor. The rock on which it stands is an elliptical conoid, inaccessible on all sides except the east, which was defended by the Barbican, on each side of which were ditches, and where these were impeded by the rock walls began. Two towers protected the Barbican, from whence you advanced to the gate of the lower Ballium, which was three hundred feet from North to South, and one hundred and sixty from East to West. This is divided by a wall from the upper Ballium, which consists of a plane two hundred feet in length, by one hundred in breadth. On the highest part was the keep, and apartments for the officers. About the castle, in the times of feudal grandeur, lay a wide waste, now called the Great Heath, which was common to the tenantry, and the castle was crowded with armed men, who were the terror of the neigh-

bouring Irish and the bulwark of the Pale. It appears afterwards to have fallen into the hands of the Fitzgeralds, for in 1394, Maurice Fitzgerald seized the persons of Richard de Rupella, the Lord Justice, Theobald le Butler, and others, and committed them prisoners to the castles of Leix and Dunamase. But about the close of the reign of Edward II. O'More, the ancient proprietor of Leix, being entrusted by Lord Mortimer, who had married Brecknock's only daughter, with the protection of his estates, took Dunamase and eight other castles in one night, and recovered the whole country. For nearly four centuries this fortress was an object of fierce contention between the English and Irish, until in 1650, with several other castles in the Queen's County, it surrendered to the parliament forces, by whom it was dismantled, and reduced to its present state.

In Munster there are still some remains of the castles built by King John at Limerick, Nenagh, Ardfinnan, and Lismore. The latter has been converted into a magnificent residence for the Duke of Devonshire when he visits this country. Its original erection was in 1185 on the site of an ancient Abbey; after various vicissitudes it was granted with the manor of Lismore to Sir Walter Raleigh, from whom it was purchased by the great Earl of Cork; and with the history of this celebrated man. its annals are closely interwoven.* It is situated on

* A diary of the Earl of Cork has been found amongst the manuscripts in Lismore Castle, which minutely details the

the verge of a hill, the river Blackwater running close to the foundation. The northern front is flanked by circular towers partly concealed by trees which seem to grow out of the river, and, combined with the abrupt position of the castle, forms a picture singularly romantic. A magnificent shaded avenue

well-known particulars of his early life, and the means by which he was raised to wealth and honour, and to a share in the administration of the affairs of Ireland at a most important period. The following is given in an ancient document as part of the first Earl of Cork's actions for the service of the Crown and Commonwealth, and of the province of Munster where he resided :—He re-edified the great decayed church of Youghall. He built the college-house, a free school, and an alms-house for decayed soldiers in the said town, which he endowed with lands of the clear yearly value of eighty pounds. He established four incorporate and market towns, which he planted with English Protestants, viz. Tallagh, where he built a new church, sessions-house, market-house, and prison ; Lismore, where he re-edified the demolished chancel of the cathedral ; Clogheen, where he erected a new church ; and Bandon-bridge, which he fortified with great care and planted with English Protestants. He erected sixteen new castles in various parts of his estates, built four stately bridges at Tallagh, Connotry, Fermoy, and Cappoquin, and he was able to bring into the field from his plantations about Tallagh and Bandon-bridge 1800 foot and 160 horse, all English Protestants, with able commanders of his own tenantry. He paid every week in the year two hundred pounds to workmen, and maintained out of his purse four thousand people young and old on his lands and plantations. He lent in ready money for the use of his Majesty's fleet in Munster one thousand pounds, and to render the forts at Cork and Waterford defensible five hundred pounds, and yet he had never an acre of land, pension, ward, entertainment, or other matter of benefit from the English government or the State in Ireland, neither was he ever suitor for any such benefit or gift.

flanked with high stone walls leads to the grand entrance into the square of the castle, over which are the arms of the first Earl of Cork, with the motto, "*God's Providence is our inheritance.*" This fortification is very extensive, and its bounds may still be traced by the ancient walls and towers which remain, and their gloomy appearance forms a fine contrast to the interior of the castle, which is fitted up in a modern style, and contains some good paintings and tapestry. James II. dined here, and one of the windows still bears his name, from which he is said to have started back with dismay when he perceived the vast height at which he stood above the river which flowed beneath him. The view from the castle presents a picture of rural splendor which cannot be surpassed.

Another description of antiquities scattered through the country are those which have been connected with religion. They have been divided into Druidical, Firbolgian, and Christian. Of the religion of the Druids we have spoken in a former page, and the nature of their worship forbade that any trace of it should remain except, perhaps, the custom of planting trees around our cemeteries. To Druidical origin, however, have been ascribed by many of our antiquarians, the *cromleachs*, *cairns*, and *pillar-stones* which are to be met with in various parts of the country. But the opinion that the first of these was the work of the Belgæ or Firbolgians, who over-ran the British isles about three hundred years before the Chris-

tian æra is strengthened by the description which Wormius gives of the Danish Pagan altar, which consisted, he says, of three great stones erected on the summit of a tumulus, and on them was laid a fourth, broader and more flat, so as to resemble a huge rude table resting on three feet. Such is nearly an exact representation of the Irish *cromleach*, except that sometimes the tail of the impost rests on the ground, while its head is supported by two uprights; but in other places two lofty pillars bear a third placed horizontally on them. Thus a *cromleach* at Tobinstown in the county of Carlow has a covering stone twenty-three feet long and eighteen broad, and makes with its supporters a large room, while at Brownstown in the same county, an impost containing 1280 feet of solid contents, or above eighty-nine tons weight, makes an angle with the horizon of thirty-four degrees. It is not matter of astonishment that such erections have been ascribed to giants. Mr. Tighe, in his Statistical Survey of Kilkenny, states that on the summit of Tory-hill, called in Irish *Sleigh-grian*, or the Hill of the Sun, is a circular space, sixty-five yards in circumference, covered with stones. In the centre stands a large stone, and on the east side another raised on three rude supporters of unequal bulk. This stone is above six feet long, five broad, one foot four inches thick, and it contains an inscription which in Roman letters would exhibit ‘*Beli Diuose.*’ “That the Divinity,” adds Mr. Tighe, “was worshipped in this country under the name of *Bel* needs

no proof; and that the Divinity was also worshipped in the British isles under the name of *Diunosos*, is also recorded." Mr. Ryland enumerates several of these ancient monuments in the county of Waterford, some of which are very remarkable. One is near Kilbarry, in the liberties of the city, of which the incumbent stone measures twenty-one feet in length by eighteen in breadth. Another at Sugar loaf-hill consists of four oblong masses of rock, supporting a table stone or altar of considerable magnitude, the height of which is about twenty feet. The neighbouring range of hills is covered with fragments of rock varying in size, and from the uncouth forms and grotesque positions which they sometimes assume, Mr. Ryland conjectures that *cromleachs* are not always to be attributed to the physical exertions of man, as some of the large flat rocks in that neighbourhood might be made to exhibit the same appearances by removing the earth on which they rest, and exposing to view the frequently perpendicular pillars beneath them.

Cairns, composed of immense conical heaps of stones, are to be found in many parts of the country, and there can be little doubt that their use was sepulchral. One of the most celebrated of these monuments is on the hill of New Grange in the county of Louth, which was discovered in 1699, by a Mr. Campbell, who observing stones under the ground, had them removed, and at length arrived at a broad flat stone which covered the mouth of a gallery. At

the entrance it is three feet wide and two high. The length from its mouth to the beginning of the dome is sixty-two feet, and from thence to the upper part of the dome eleven feet six inches. The cave with the gallery gives the exact figure of a cross: the dome forms an octagon twenty feet high with an area of about seventeen, and it is composed of long flat stones, the upper projecting a little below the lower, and closed and capped with a flag stone. The skeletons of two human bodies were found in it, with the bones of deer and other animals, and two golden coins, one of the elder Valentinian, the other of Theodosius. Two boat-like urns evinced that religious rites were here performed to the manes of some naval commander. The base of the mountain was encircled by a number of enormous unhewn uprights. They were from seven to nine feet above ground, and one stood on the top of the mount, where sacrifices were annually performed in memory of the deceased. Remarkable cairns are to be met on the top of Knock-na-Ree in the county of Sligo, and on the summit of Sliev-Croob in the county of Down. Another of these heaps called Kairn-barn is in the county of Armagh, and a vast mole of this kind is at Wind-gates in the county of Wicklow.*

* Dr. Smith, in his History of Cork, gives an account of several remarkable caves in that country, one of which, in the parish of Aghabulow, is minutely described by the Rev. Marmaduke Cox. It was discovered in 1755 by a labourer, who dropping his spade into a deep hole, found a passage from

Rude columns from six to nine feet over the ground are almost uniformly found in the neighbourhood of these cairns.

But our most remarkable monuments of antiquity, and which may be considered peculiar to Ireland, are those slender round towers of various dimensions which are to be found in many parts of the country, generally in the vicinity of those ecclesiastical build-

thence into fifteen subterraneous chambers, in one of which were found above five hundred skeletons. Near Mitchelstown is a remarkable cavern, the opening to which is a cleft in a rock on a limestone-hill, and it is extremely narrow and difficult. After a descent of twenty steps, a vault presents itself, a hundred feet long by about fifty and sixty in height. A small hole from the left leads from this into a winding gallery, not less than half a mile in length, which in some places expands into a considerable breadth, and when well lighted with candles, it resembles a vaulted cathedral, supported by massy columns. The walls, ceiling, floor, and pillars, are often composed of very beautiful incrustations of the most fantastic forms, which glitter so much as to make them appear as if powdered with diamonds. The cave of Dunmore, in the county of Kilkenny, has been long celebrated as a natural curiosity. The entrance is situated on the slope of a hill, a short distance from the church of Mothill, and consists of a pit or hollow of great length and depth. After passing through an excavation of considerable dimensions, and fifty feet in height, a narrow passage conducts to a second large apartment, from whence winding passages lead to other cavities. A stream of water runs through the cavern, near which many skulls and bones have been found. The gloom of these subterraneous recesses strikes the mind with inconceivable awe, which is occasionally dispelled by the various stalactic forms caused by the continual dripping of water. Thus the examiner fancies, that by the dim light which accompanies him, he can trace the resemblance of altars, organ-pipes, pillars, pyramids, &c.

ings whose erection was anterior to the arrival of the English. Some of them are not fifty feet high, while others exceed a hundred, and one or two have been found measuring one hundred and thirty feet in height. Their external circumference at the base seldom exceeds forty feet, and the walls are generally three feet thick. They taper gradually to the top, which in some has a stone roof terminating with a sharp point, and others appear to be battlemented. There can be no doubt they were originally furnished inside with stages or lofts of timber, from which persons ascended to the top by means of a ladder; for in the walls are to be seen blocks of timber, being the remains of the beams which supported the floors, and in others appear the holes which received the beams, where all remains of the latter have been decayed by time. To each of those stories light was communicated by loop-holes in the walls, and near the top are open passages corresponding with the different points of the compass. But, perhaps, one of the greatest peculiarities connected with our round tower is, that with one or two exceptions, the door or entrance is placed from eight to twelve feet over the level of the ground, and in the tower of Kilmacduagh, in the county of Galway, it is twenty-four feet,* so that there was no

* Doctor Ledwich enumerates sixty-four of these towers distributed as follows, viz :—

Antrim..... 2	Carlow..... 0	Westmeath... 2	Galway..... 3
Armagh..... 0	Dublin..... 5	Wexford..... 0	Leitrim..... 0
Cavan..... 1	Kildare..... 5	Wicklow..... 2	Mayo..... 5
Donegall..... 0	Kilkenny.... 4	Clare..... 2	Roscommon.. 2
Fermanagh.... 1	King's County 2	Cork..... 7	Sligo..... 5
Down..... 3	Longford..... 0	Kerry..... 2	
Londonderry.... 0	Louth..... 2	Limerick..... 1	
Monaghan..... 1	Meath..... 1	Tipperary.... 3	
Tyrone..... 0	Queen's Co... 2	Waterford.... 1	

mode of entrance but by a ladder. This has led to the opinion that they were intended as places of security in times of danger; but this appears highly improbable, as the building is not capable of containing ten men with convenience.

The hypotheses respecting the uses to which these towers were appropriated, and the period of their erection, have been numerous and contradictory; and though it may not be difficult to point out their several defects, it would, perhaps, be no easy task to substitute one more satisfactory. Some conjecture that they were constructed in a very remote period, when the worship of the Sun was prevalent in this island, and this opinion is strengthened by the assertion that similar buildings are to be found in the Parsee fire-temples, used by the fire-worshippers in Persia. But to this it is objected, that their construction is not adapted to the purpose of having a fire continually burning on the summit. Another hypothesis, first started by the learned Dean Richardson, and countenanced by Mr. Harris, who has a long dissertation on the subject, is that their erection was commenced by certain Irish Anchorites, soon after the introduction of Christianity, for the purpose of penitential austerities in imitation of Simon Stylites, who is said to have spent thirty years on a pillar forty cubits high in the neighbourhood of Antioch. One of his disciples, we are told, passed sixty-eight years of his life in a similar manner; and the examples of these holy men found many

followers in this country, a continued correspondence being maintained at that time with the Asiatic Churches. But Doctor Ledwich denies that there was any similarity between the Asiatic pillar and our round tower, the former being solid and square, the latter hollow and circular—and while the ascetic was placed outside on the one, he should have been inclosed in the other. Indeed it appears improbable that a building of so solid and expensive a description as our round towers would have been erected for such a purpose, nor could the corporal sufferings of their solitary inhabitants have borne any proportion to those of their Asiatic brethren.

Giraldus Cambrensis speaks of them as being peculiar to Ireland, for he calls them, "*Turres Ecclesiasticas, more patriæ, arctæ sunt, et altæ, necnon rotundæ.*" "Ecclesiastical towers, which after the fashion of the country, are slender, high, and round." Lynch and Walsh, who wrote in the seventeenth century, conjecture that they were Danish works, intended for watch towers by that people before their conversion to Christianity, but afterwards changed to belfries for the churches near which they are generally found. Mr. Molyneux and Doctor Ledwich follow this opinion, which they consider to be strengthened by the name of *Cloghaedh*, or clock-tower, which is still given to these buildings by the native Irish. But we conceive objections may be brought against it of equal force with those which have been produced to overturn

the various other conjectures on this subject, in which our antiquarians have indulged. If they had been Danish erections, we can hardly suppose that the inquisitive Cambrensis would have said that they were built *after the fashion of the country*, but would rather have stated a fact of which he could easily have informed himself from the number of Danes and Norwegians, who still dwelt in the maritime cities. That they could never have been intended for watch-towers or other military works, is evident both from their construction and the low situations in which they stood ; and it is equally improbable that they were designed for belfries, because bells were not generally introduced into Christian churches on the Continent before the eighth or ninth century, and they were unknown in Ireland at a much later period. If the Danes were the builders of our round towers, is it not extraordinary that no traces of similar erections are to be found in their own country, or in England, where that people domineered for more than two centuries ? With respect to their being usually found in the vicinity of ancient ecclesiastical structures, it is as rational to suppose that the church was built near the tower, as that the tower was built near the church, for it has been the practice of all nations where alterations in religion have been effected, to continue the worship of the Divinity, though under different rites, in those places which had been previously rendered sacred in the eyes of the people. Thus, it is probable, that the first humble edifices

Traces of groin work are observable in the

appropriated to the Christian worship in this island, were erected in the neighbourhood of the Druidical Grove, the Cromleach, or the Round Tower, as we know the Heathen Temples in Greece and Rome were by an easy transformation converted into Christian Churches. Though the origin of our round towers may for ever be involved in impenetrable obscurity, yet we conceive the arguments are best supported, which fix the date of their erection at a period long antecedent to the coming of the Danes.

After the conversion of the Northern invaders to Christianity, they seemed anxious to atone for their former cruelties against the professors of that faith, by erecting churches wherever their dominion extended. Christ Church in Dublin, which was founded by them in the early part of the eleventh century, still remains a noble monument of their zeal in this respect. From the period of the English invasion, the rage for founding ecclesiastical edifices kept pace with that for the erection of castles, and the confined crypts of the ancient Irish or Danes,* and the humble cells of the Culdees were replaced by spacious churches and monasteries,

* Doctor Ledwich takes notice of two of those ancient structures, namely a stone roofed chapel, near the Cathedral of Killybeg, where the reliques of St. Flannan are said to have been deposited, and St. Doulagh's church situated four miles East of Dublin ; of the latter he gives a minute description. This building does not stand, according to the usual custom, due east and west. Its extreme length is only forty-eight feet, and its breadth eighteen. It has a double roof composed of

decorated with all the gorgeous variety of the Gothic, Saxon, and Norman architecture. Good specimens of the munificence and architectural skill of our forefathers are still preserved in the cathedrals of St. Patrick, Dublin, St. Mary, Limerick, and St. Canice, Kilkenny, while magnificent remains of similar edifices are scattered through every part of the island. The antiquities of Glendalough, Monaincha, Devenish, Inniscattery, Inniscealtra, and Clonmacnoise, will furnish a rich feast to the mind which delights in recollections of former ages, while the dilapidated magnificence of the Abbies of Mellifont and Bectiff, Boyle and Sligo, Adare and Buttevant, Jerpoint and Kilkenny, Dunbrody, Athassel and the Rock of Cashel, will abundantly gratify every admirer of architectural beauty. Were it consistent with our plan or limits, we should gladly attempt to present our readers with some memorial of these mouldering piles, many of whose ancient inmates, we would hope, were under the influence of a sincere, though ill-directed piety; but we are compelled to confine ourselves to a brief notice of the Rock of stone, and towards the centre rises a square tower, apparently of a more recent date than that of the remainder of the church. The interior is divided into two compartments, the western of which contains a small room, in which stands what is called the tomb of St. Doulagh, and a turret supposed to have been designed for a belfry. This communicates with the choir, which is the place of divine worship, twenty-two feet in length and twelve in breadth, by a door so narrow as scarcely to admit the entrance of a full grown person. A pointed window is inserted at the east end, and there are two others of a lancet form. Traces of groin work are observable in the

Cashel, which we conceive to be in some degree connected with the principal subject of this work; that city having been the ancient residence of the Kings of Munster, while it still continues the seat of the Primacy of that province.

Cashel, from the most remote period has been looked on by the Irish as a place of extraordinary sanctity. A legend in Keating's History gravely informs us that the site of the place was first pointed out to the herdsmen of Corc, King of Munster, by a heavenly messenger, who foretold the coming of St. Patrick, and that the King immediately erected a Royal Palace on the spot now called Carrick-Phadruig or Patrick's Rock; and from receiving here the rent or revenue of his kingdom, it was called Ciosoil (since corrupted into Cashel) *Cios* signifying Rent, and *Oil* a Rock. We have stated in a former page the conversion of Ængus, King of Munster, in the fifth century by the preaching of St. Patrick, who immediately convened a Synod which was attended by the celebrated Saints Ailbe, Declan, Kiaran, and Ibar. The seat of the Primacy of Munster, was at this time fixed at Emly, a sequestered spot sixteen miles west of Cashel. The building is a large square tower with a stone roof, and relics of arches remain, but no sculpture or architectural ornaments appear in any part of the building. Mr. Brewer agrees with Doctor Ledwich in attributing the erection of this church to the Danes, and he judiciously infers, from the rudeness of its architecture, that the same people could not have possessed "either inclination or industry to construct the many round towers of Ireland as belfries."

el, where it continued till the reign of Cormac, who united in his own person the offices of King and Bishop at the commencement of the tenth century.*

* Emly, or Eemloch-eev-arra, was formerly a handsome city, situated in a small but beautiful lake, over which the inhabitants were ferried to its ancient cathedral which is now in ruins : the lake is completely dried up, and converted into rich pasture ground. At this day, a crown-rent of 6s. 8d. is charged in the collector's books, payable yearly out of the ferry of Emly, which is constantly returned in arrear. It was not many years, it is said, since a green wax was issued from Dublin to enforce the payment thereof. Emly now consists of a small but thriving village, sixteen miles south-west of Cashel, and has a handsome slated chapel. The cathedral church is to be erected anew, out of a fund amassed from the revenues anciently appropriated to that use under the direction of the late Archbishop, commissioners having been appointed by him for the purpose. In the church-yard there was formerly a large cross of unhewn stone, about eight feet high, and near it a well called St. Ailbe's Well, which were very much venerated by the surrounding inhabitants. Inside the church stands a very old and beautiful marble monument of Sir Thomas Hurley of Knocklong, in the county of Limerick, on which is a long Latin inscription. This Sir Thomas is supposed to have been a relation of Thomas Hurley, Bishop of Emly, who died at a very advanced age, A. D. 1542, and was buried in this church, in which he had erected a college for secular priests. But what renders Emly most remarkable is, that here St. Ailbe, the first bishop of Munster, erected his episcopal residence, about the time of St. Patrick, which dignity it retained until the eighth century, when it was translated to Cashel. Ailbe was called the second Patrick of Munster, as appears from an Irish distich in the Life of St. Declan: it is quoted by Archbishop Ussher, and is said to have been written by St. Patrick himself:—

“ Ailbhe umhal Patric Mumhan mo gach rath,
Declan Patric na Deisi na Deisi ag Patric go brath.”

Some particulars respecting this eminent prince and prelate have been given in a preceding page. The cathedral is said to have been rebuilt in 1134, when a Synod was held in it, and in 1157 the Archbishop first received the pall from Rome by the hands of Cardinal Paparo. The town was totally destroyed by fire in 1159.

Cashel is rendered memorable by the celebrated Synod convened there in 1172 by Henry II. which

Thus translated by Dunkin :—

Of humble mind, but fraught with ev'ry grace,
Great Ailbe the Patrick of Momonia's race,
Declan the mitred honour of divines,
The deathless Patrick of his Decius shines.

Ussher places the conversion and baptism of Ailbe under the year 360; others again about the year 400. An ancient author, who wrote the life of St. Colman, Bishop of Dromore, calls him "Bishop of Emly, a wise and religious man," and says, "that Colman lived with him for some years, attentively studying the Scriptures, with fasting, watching, and prayer." There were about fifty-nine bishops successors to St. Ailbe in the See of Emly, of whom Reymund De Burg, a Franciscan friar, was the last, in 1562. The Chapter of Emly consists of a Dean, Precentor, Chancellor, Archdeacon, and four Prebendaries, viz: Killenelick Laten, Isert Laurence, Doon, and Dollardstown. It is situated in the barony of Clanwilliam, in the county of Tipperary. The city of Emly was plundered by robbers in 1123, and the mitre of St. Ailbe stolen. We are also told that it was burned in 1192; that it was afterwards re-built, and continued in a flourishing state to the reign of Henry VIII. The parishes of Aney, Ballybrood, Doon, Galbally, Palace-Grein, Cahirconlish, Roche's-town, Caherelly, Cahircorney, Kilcullane, and Ullve in the diocese of Emly, lie in the county of Limerick.

gave its sanction to the Bulls of Popes Adrian and Alexander, granting the realm of Ireland for ever to that Prince and his successors. About the same time Donald O'Brien built a new church and endowed it with lands. In 1216, a prelate of the same name erected Cashel into a borough; Henry III. by charter granted to the Archbishop Marian O'Brien and his successors, the new town of Cashel to be held in "free, pure, and perpetual alms, discharged of all exactions and secular services." The Archbishop soon after confirmed the government of the town to a provost and twelve burgesses, reserving some small pensions to the See. Before the end of the thirteenth century Cashel must have become of considerable importance, for in 1256, we find no less than thirty-eight brewers were cited before an Assize by the Abbot of St. Mary's, of the Rock of Cashel, for not paying to the Church two flagons of ale at each brewing for the support of a Lazar House founded by David Latimer. In the year 1647 during the civil wars between the Parliament and Charles I. Lord Inchiquin approached Cashel. The inhabitants deserted the city and fled to the cathedral which had been lately well fortified, and Lord Taaffe had placed a strong garrison in it; but Lord Inchiquin took it by storm, when great slaughter was made of the garrison and citizens, among whom were many priests and friars. Cashel is still a tolerably well built town, containing about six thousand inhabitants.

The first Reformed Prelate of the See of Cashel was James Mac Caghwell, who was appointed by Queen Elizabeth in 1567. He was wounded soon after with a skean by Maurice Gibbon, whom the Pope had promoted to the Archbishoprick, because he would not give up the administration of the province to him. Emly was united to Cashel about this time by Act of Parliament. Mac Caghwell was succeeded in 1570 by Miler Magrath, Bishop of Down, who governed this See fifty-two years, and died in 1622 in the 100th year of his age. He was in high favour with Queen Elizabeth, and for many years held the Dioceses of Waterford and Lismore, Killaloe and Achonry, *in commendam*. Of his successors till Archbishop Palliser, who filled the See of Cashel thirty-two years, and died in 1726, nothing is mentioned worthy of notice. That worthy prelate was a great benefactor to the University of Dublin, on which he bestowed a considerable sum of money, besides bequeathing to it above four thousand volumes of valuable books, on condition that these books should always be called *Bibliotheca Palliseriana*, and be placed next to the library called *Bibliotheca Usseriana*.

The Hon. and Most Rev. Dr. Charles Broderick, late Archbishop of Cashel, died in 1822. He was fourth in descent from Alan Broderick, Lord Middleton, who was appointed Lord Chancellor of Ireland in 1714, and brother to the Viscount of that name. This estimable prelate was not more distin-

guished for his noble birth, than for his great piety and munificence. He established a fund, as a provision for the widows of the deceased Clergy of his diocese ; to which, with many other excellent charities he continued till his death, a most liberal benefactor ; nor did his great public liberality exceed his private bounty. Energetic and prudent in the exercise of his episcopal authority, his diocese was one of the best regulated, and his clergy among the most correct and exemplary of any in the Empire, which was greatly to be attributed to the example of his virtues. He endeavoured to take away the reproach from this country of which Spenser complained in his day, “ that the neglect of churches was a great cause of the low progress of the Reformation in Ireland, which he says, “ lie for the most part even with the ground ; and of those lately repaired, some are so unhandsomely patched and thatched that men do even shun the places for the uncleanness thereof.”— Under the direction of Doctor Broderick many handsome churches and glebe-houses were built in places where there never had been one before ; all these were kept in the best state of repair, a knowledge of which he had from the annual report of his Rural Deans, or from personal inspection. The palace, a very fine edifice, was new modelled, and repaired at considerable expense by his Grace. From it there is a magnificent view of the Rock, between which and the palace are the gardens and

pleasure grounds, which are tastefully planted with ever-greens, flowering shrubs, and many curious trees and flowers. This view, comprehending the noble ruins of castles, towers, and abbeys, situated on the Rock (once the residence of princes and patriarchs) with an extensive prospect of a most beautiful country varied by hill and dale, thickly inhabited, planted and highly cultivated, is terminated to the South West by the lofty mountains called the Galtees, which look as if they were designed to be the boundaries between contending empires.

The remains of the old cathedral, which overlook the town, prove that it must have been a very extensive, and beautiful Gothic structure, boldly towering on the celebrated Rock of Cashel, and forming with it a magnificent object, bearing honourable testimony to the labour and ingenuity, as well as the piety and zeal of its former inhabitants: it is seen at a great distance and in many directions. The extent of the nave and choir from east to west is about two hundred feet, and the steeple is in the centre of the cross. Divine service continued to be performed in this venerable cathedral till 1752, when Archbishop Price unroofed the choir, and it was speedily converted into a ruin. Archbishop Agar endeavoured to restore it to its pristine glory, but its dilapidated condition rendered the attempt fruitless, and a new

cathedral was soon after erected.* Near the east angle of the north aisle of the old Cathedral is a round tower, from which to the church there is a subterraneous passage. This tower is supposed to be the oldest structure upon the Rock of Cashel, from

* Archbishop Magrath caused a monument to be erected for himself in the Cathedral of Cashel, opposite to that of Archbishop Edward Butler who died in 1550. It is placed on a high basis on the south side of the choir between the episcopal throne and the altar. On it is his effigies cut in stone in alto relievo, his mitre on his head, and his pastoral staff in his hand: on each side of his head were carved the figures of angels, but that on one side is now defaced. Above the head are his arms, and at his feet the image of Christ on the Cross, at the top of which is inscribed, I. N. R. I. At his right elbow is the image of St. Patrick slightly engraved with his pastoral staff and mitre. Underneath the monument is the name of the architect, and on a plate is the following epitaph of his own composition:—

Milere Magrath Archiepiscopi Cashaliensis ad viatorem Carmen.

Venerat in Dunum primo sanctissimus olim,
 Patricius, nostri gloria magna soli,
 Huic ego succedens, utinam tam sanctus ut ille,
 Sic Duni primo tempore Præsul eram,
 Anglia, lustra decem sed post tua sceptræ colebam,
 Principibus placui, Marte tonante tuis.
 Hic ubi sum positus, non sum, sum non ubi non sum;
 Sum nec in ambobus sum sed utro que loco. 1621,
 Dominus est qui me judicat, 1 Cor. 4,
 Qui stat caveat ne cadat.

Which has been thus translated by Mr. Harris:

Patrick, the glory of our isle and gown,
 First sat a Bishop in the See of Down.
 I wish that I, succeeding him in place
 As Bishop, had an equal share of grace.
 I serv'd thee, England, in continual jars,
 And pleas'd thy princes in the midst of wars;
 There where I'm placed, I'm not, and thus the case is—
 I'm not in both, yet am in both the places—1621.
 He that judgeth me is the Lord.—1 Cor. 4.
 Let him who stands take care lest he fall.

this circumstance, that all the erections upon the Rock which is limestone, are built of the same materials, except the tower which is of free-stone. It is fifty-four feet in circumference at the base; and the height of the door from the ground is eleven feet. It consists of five stories, each of which, from the projecting layers of stone, appears to have had its window. The stone on which the ancient Kings of Munster were crowned still remains near this spot.

Connected with the cathedral on the south side of the choir is King Cormac's chapel, by some supposed to be the first stone building in Ireland. Dr. Ledwich considers it one of the most curious fabrics in the kingdom, and its rude imitation of pillars and capitals makes it appear to have been copied after the Grecian architecture, and long to have preceded that which is usually called Gothic. This chapel is fifty feet by eighteen in the clear, and of a style totally different from the church. Both on the outside and inside are columns over columns, better proportioned than one could expect from the place or time. The ceiling is vaulted, and the outside of the roof is corbelled so as to form a pediment pitch. At the angles of the east end are two small towers. "It may not be unworthy of observation (says a learned antiquary) that the chapel is not parallel to the church, as it tends to confirm the greater antiquity of the chapel; for had the church been the older building it is probable they would have accommodated the chapel to it, though on

the contrary they would not have adapted the church to the chapel. As the first builders of churches were religiously exact in placing them due east and west, the deviation of the chapel from the true line, we may presume, was corrected in the church. If it could be ascertained (continues the same person,) that due attention was given to the meridian at founding each of these structures, then the want of parallelism in them, would become a datum for ascertaining the difference of their dates. For we know that the Equinoxes move in antecedentia one degree in seventy-two years, therefore, by turning the angle which these buildings make with each other into years, we have the interval between their respective foundations. If this angle be three degrees, it would answer nearly to the supposed difference. But the angle is apparently much greater, suppose nine degrees, and then it will bring the foundation of the chapel to the 5th century." It is very probable it was built by Cormac on the very foundation of the church originally erected here by St. Patrick.

Hore Abbey, called also St. Mary's Abbey of the Rock of Cashel, was situated near the Cathedral Church, and originally founded for Benedictines; but the Archbishop, David Mac Carbhail of the family of the O'Carrols, dispossessed them of their house and lands, and gave their possessions to a body of Cistercian Monks, and at the same time took upon himself the habit of that order. The

noble ruins of this edifice still remain. The steeple is large and about twenty feet square on the inside; the east window is small and plain, and in the inside walls are some remains of stalls; the nave is sixty feet long and twenty-three broad; and on each side was an arcade of three Gothic arches, the north side whereof is levelled, with lateral isles, which were about thirteen feet broad: on the south side of the steeple is a small door leading into an open part about thirty feet long and twenty-four broad; the side walls are much broken, and in the gable end is a long window; there is a small division on the north side of the steeple, with a low arched apartment which seems to have been a confessional, as there are niches in the walls with apertures.

A monastery called Hacket's Abbey was founded in Cashel in the reign of Henry III. for Conventual Franciscans, by W. Hacket. In the night of the 14th of February 1757, the lofty and beautiful steeple of this friary fell to the ground. The edifice was situated at the rere of Friar's-street, but is now so much gone to ruin that it is difficult to trace its divisions.

From the foregoing hasty sketch it must appear evident, that Cashel contains many objects worthy of the investigation and research of the antiquarian, and closely connected with the history of a race of patriot kings. To adopt the language of a recent tourist, its celebrated Rock presents a magnificent display of every variety of ecclesiastical architecture, round and square towers, stone roofs, crypts and

shrines, arches, Saxon, Roman and Norman, all in one common ruin. We rejoice to learn that Archdeacon Cotton, son-in-law to the present Archbishop of Cashel, is actively engaged in measures for preserving those valuable remains of antiquity from total decay. Many ancient pieces of sculpture have been discovered, and some interesting inscriptions deciphered, and we may indulge a hope, that under his auspices, plans and elevations of those interesting ruins will yet be given to the public.

TABLE

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stands, and the
the two Columns*

*N.B. The Blank
until the Libert*

LIMERICK									
ABBEYFEALE								29.0	
ABINGTON								36.1	
ADARE							15.7	20.6	8.2
ARDAGH						10.6	26.4	11.5	18.7
ASKEATON					7.4	7.6		19.3	13.7
ATHLEA				15.5	8.1	18.6	34.5		27.0
LINGARRY			16.0	9.3	7.6	6.4	19.5	16.1	14.6
FF		12.5	29.2	19.1	20.2	11.3	12.0	28.7	11.5
E	5.3	8.6	24.3	18.1	16.2	11.6	17.3	24.7	15.3
							6.4		
	13.4	8.1	15.6	30.6	12.5	22.5	12.0	3.7	30.3
	16.0	12.5	22.1	37.1	24.0	29.0	18.2	3.0	39.2
	7.0	6.5	8.6	22.5	12.3	13.4	4.6	13.7	22.0
	11.1	16.5	8.3	17.6	16.1	10.3	15.0	28.1	15.3
	14.1	12.0	22.7	40.0	31.0	31.0	23.3	18.2	38.3
	27.1	31.1	18.4		11.7	10.2	18.5	34.4	26.7
	8.5	4.1	16.6	33.3	23.1	24.3	15.4	10.3	33.0
	3.3	4.3	11.7	27.6	21.2	19.5	15.1	16.3	28.2
	8.5	9.5	17.1	33.0	26.4	24.7	20.0	19.4	32.3
	12.3	16.3	3.5	12.1	9.1	4.0	9.2	23.3	12.5
	23.7	26.3	15.1	10.4	8.5	8.0	15.3		19.5
	18.4	13.1	20.6	35.6		27.5	17.0	1.1	37.2
	15.5	18.1	6.7	13.0	2.5	4.7	7.0	22.7	16.4
	14.6	19.7	7.1	9.7	10.2	2.5	11.7	27.1	9.0
	18.0	12.5	22.7	38.5	29.1	30.4	21.3	11.1	40.6
O'BI									
PAI	18.3	17.0	10.2	21.4	5.7	13.3	6.4		23.5
PATRIC	11.4	9.5	9.7	22.1	11.0	14.0	3.3	12.5	2.4
PALLIS G	14.2	8.7	19.0	34.7	25.2	26.6	17.5	7.7	37.0
RATHKEALE	12.7	15.3	4.1	13.0	5.2	4.7	5.6	21.5	15.1
SHANA GOLDEN	19.7	22.8	11.1	10.6	5.1	5.2	11.2	27.2	16.7

GOVERNMENT OF ALABAMA

LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS

The County of ... is divided between ... and ...
as and ... of ... and ...
now ... is ... by the
County of ... on the ...
the ... of ... and on the ...
by the ... the ...
which is ... from the ...
... of ...
... and the ...
... to the ...
and ...
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COUNTY OF LIMERICK.

TOPOGRAPHY AND ANTIQUITIES.

THE COUNTY OF LIMERICK is situated between 52 and 53 deg. of north lat. and in 9 deg. west long. from London. It is bounded on the South by the county of Cork ; on the North by the Shannon ; on the West by the county of Kerry, and on the East by the county of Tipperary. Its greatest length, (which is about 40 miles) is from the east part of Coonagh to Abbeyfeale, (in the barony of Upper Connello,) in the West ; and its breadth about 22 miles, from Limerick to Red Chair in the South, and contains 375,320 Irish plantation acres. It is divided into ten baronies, namely, Oweybeg, Coonagh, Clanwilliam, Small County, Coshlea, Coshma, Pobble Brien, Upper Connello, Lower Connello, Kenry, with the Liberties of Limerick and Kilmallock. It has eleven post towns namely,

Askeaton 110 miles from Dublin, Ballingarry 112, Adare 102, Bruff 109, Castle Connell 88, Croome 106, Kilmallock 113, Pallas Grein 96, Pallas Kenry 96, Rathkeale 108, and Shanagolden 115 miles. The county contains 125 parishes, and the population by the Census of 1821, not including the city, was 277,477.

OWNEYBEG.

This barony forms the N. E. boundary of the County, and contains but two parishes, viz. Abington, a rectory, and Tough Island, a rectory and vicarage divided.

Abington, situated on the river Mulchair, is a small town about seven miles east of Limerick; it has a church in good repair, with a glebe-house, and the parish contains 4248 acres. It was anciently called Woney or Wothenev. A famous abbey was founded here in the year 1189 by Theobald Fitzwalter Butler, Lord of Carrick, head of the Ormond family, to whom, with Ranulph de Glanville, John, son of Henry II. granted five cantreds and a-half of land in the kingdom of Limerick or North Munster, part of which was Woney or Wothenev. This Theobald Fitzwalter was sister's son to St. Thomas of Canterbury.* The abbey

* When James Fitz Eustace, Viscount Baltinglass, had taken up arms with the Earl of Desmond and others, for the defence of the Catholic religion in the reign of Elizabeth, he wrote to the Earl of Ormond to co-operate with them, saying, "had not blessed Thomas of Canterbury died for the Church of Rome, thou hadst never been Earl of Ormond;" for, to expiate the murder of said Thomas, King Henry II. had given to his ancestors large possessions in Ormond.

was a daughter of that of Savigney of the same Cistercian order in the diocese of Avranches in Normandy. The Abbot of Woney had the honour of being one of the Lords Spiritual, and sat as such in the House of Peers. One of the charges against the Deputy Lord Leonard Gray, who was beheaded in the reign of Henry VIII. was, that he had forced the Abbot of Woney to give £40 to preserve the abbey from ruin. In Abington is a very pleasant residence of Lord Cloncurry. There are two fairs held here annually on the 29th of May, and 31st of August.

The parish of Tough Island, in the union of Abington, is in the diocese of Emly, and contains 1067 acres of land. In this parish, situate on the river Mulchair, was the ancient mansion of the Hayes family, and also Tower-hill, a fine house and demesne belonging to the Rev. Rickard Lloyd.

COONAGH.

This Barony is the eastern boundary of the county, and contains eight parishes, all in the diocese of Emly.

Pallas Grein, which was formerly a corporate town, with a collegiate church, is now an inconsiderable village; the parish is a rectory and vicarage divided. The village is situated twelve miles S. E. from Limerick, and $7\frac{1}{4}$ N. W. from Tipperary. It contains a handsome church and steeple, with a

fine Glebe. Near the village is an ancient Rath, and the castle of Kilduff. The hill of Pallas, called in Irish *Knock Greine*, or the Sunny Hill, is very extensive, and produces the richest pasture. Adjoining it is Linfield, the fine mansion of M. Furnell, Esq. That part of the hill near the house is covered with wood, through which is seen a magnificent rock of the basaltic kind, consisting of many pillars of great height closely connected. The fee simple of Linfield was formerly granted to Sir William King of Kilpeacon, in this county, and still belongs to his representative, Edward Villiers, Esq. In this parish also is Derk, the handsome residence of Heffernan Considine, Esq. From Derk there is a charming view of a rich and undulating country as far as the celebrated Rock of Cashel, and also of the Galtee mountains. Near Derk house is the old road by which King William marched from Golden-bridge to the siege of Limerick.

Ballinaclogh and Dollardstown, a prebend and vicarage, is one of the parishes which constitute the corps of the Archdeaconry of Emly. It is nine miles N. W. from Tipperary, and contains 788 acres. Near this is Doon, a rectory entire, being the corps of the prebend thereof; it is a small village, and has a church and tower. At some distance from the church is the glebe-house with a glebe of 62 acres, which has been very much improved by the present incumbent, the Rev. Charles Coote. In this church was buried the famous *Eamon a Chnoic*,

or Edmond of the Hill, a celebrated outlaw named O'Ryan, who forfeited his property in the civil wars of Ireland. In this parish also is Toomaline, the handsome residence of ——— Marshal, Esq. where was formerly a monastery of which no mention is made in the Chief Remembrancer's office; but Archdall states that an inquisition taken the 8th of March, 21st of Queen Elizabeth, finds that the rectory of Uregare in the diocese of Limerick, annual value 20s. was appropriated to the Abbot of this monastery, who was also patron of the vicarage. In this parish was situated Bilboa-House, once the magnificent seat of Colonel Wilson; it was entirely built of brick brought from Holland, the grounds around were finely wooded, but the timber was cut down and sold some years ago by Lord Rous, who married the daughter and sole heiress of the late Edward Walter Wilson, Esq. of Bilboa.

To the south east of this parish is Ulloe, a vicarage valued in the King's books at £2 1s. and containing 3647 acres. It possesses no church or glebe-house, and according to the Ecclesiastical Report, the benefice is too small to afford comfort to a resident incumbent. Near the village of Ulloe are the ruins of an old church and castle, and at a short distance are to be seen the ruins of Ballyneety castle on a little hill where Sarsfield, Lord Lucan, blew up the cannon destined for the siege of Limerick by King William III. In this parish is the handsome

mansion of Thomas Lloyd, Esq, and Newtown Ellard, the ancient seat of the family of that name : and near the village of Cullen, in the county of Tipperary, about a mile south of Ulloe, is the celebrated bog in which the relics of antiquity noticed by Governor Pownal, Dr. Campbell, and General Vallancey were found.

The vicarage of Templebradin, W. S. W. of Ulloe, is one of the parishes which constitute the union of Grein, and contains 1256 acres. To the N. E. of Templebradin, lies the vicarage of Tough Cluggin, in the union of Cullen.

Kilteely is the most S. W. parish in this barony ; it is a rectory and vicarage, containing 1355 acres, and is one of the parishes which constitute the corps of the Precentorship of Emly. A fair is held on the 1st of February near the village of Kilteely, where the Knights Templars once had a church, of which no vestiges remain.

The barony of Coonagh consists of very rich land, some arable, but the greater part pasture, chiefly covered with dairy cows. It possesses no endowed school, charitable institution, or manufactory of any description.

CLANWILLIAM

Is the most northern barony of the county, and contains twelve parishes.

Carrickparson or Willestown, a rectory and vicarage, is valued in the King's books at 6s. 8d.

sterling, and is one of the parishes which constitute the union of Cahirconlish. It is in the diocese of Emly, four miles S. E. of Limerick, contains 602 acres, and has the remains of an old church and a burying place. Between this parish and Cahirnarry, lies an extensive bog belonging to different proprietors.

Ballybrood, a rectory and vicarage, is one of the parishes which constitute the corps of the Precentorship of Emly, and contains 846 acres. In the village of Ballybrood fairs are holden on the 12th of June, and 11th of October. There is a handsome church and glebe-house here with suitable offices built by the present incumbent, the Rev. George Madder. Adjoining the church is the family mansion of Thomas Frend Maunsell Esq.* and about a mile West of the village is Caherline-house and demesne, belonging to William Gabbett, Esq.

Clonkeen, a rectory entire, is one of the parishes which constitute the Archbishop of Cashel's mensal. It contains 1060 acres, and is four miles S. S. East of Castle Connell.

* The Maunsells are an ancient family in this county, for we find that Richard Maunsell, representative in parliament for the city of Limerick in 1741, was grandson to Colonel Richard Maunsell, who so gallantly defended the castle of Mocollop in the county of Waterford, against Cromwell's forces in 1650, as mentioned in the inscription on the tomb-stone in the churchyard there. His picture, with that of his wife and some articles of military stores, were lately discovered in a closet artfully concealed, in the castle of Mocollop, by Doctor Drew, the possessor of that ancient mansion.

Dromkeen, a rectory entire, united to the entire rectory of Kilcolman and the prebend and vicarage of Ballynaclogh, forms the corps of the Archdeaconry of Emly, which is valued in the King's books at £5 3s. 0d. sterling. The parish contains 740 acres; but there is no church or glebe-house. In this parish was situated Dromkeen-house, the ruins of which are still to be seen, and give strong indications of its former consequence, when it was the residence of the ancient family of the Bourkes of Dromkeen.* Opposite to Dromkeen-house are the walls of an old church, and on a tablet inserted in one of the walls is the following inscription:—

This church was repaired in 1717 by the Rev. Rickard Burg, Lord Bishop of Ardagh, being the burial-place of the family from time immemorial. His first son was buried here in 1693.

Thomas Smyth who was consecrated Bishop of Limerick in 1695, maternal great grandfather to

* William Bourke of Dromkeen was married in the reign of Charles I. to the daughter of Mackeogh of Clonkeen, now called Rivers, within three miles of Limerick, who lived in a fortified castle, called Castle Troy on the river Shannon. David Bourke of Ballynaguard, Bourke of Kishichuirk, Grady of Knockaney, and Grady of Rock's-borough were all married to the daughters of the above Mackeogh, whose property which was set in 1748 for £6000 per annum, was forfeited in Cromwell's time for the loyalty of the family to Charles I. At that time there was not a gentleman living from Ballynaguard to O'Brien's-bridge, but a Bourke, except Hynes of Cahirelly castle and Clanchy of Ballyvorneen.

the present Lord Viscount Gort, was married to Dorothea, daughter of the above Bishop Burg, by Maria, daughter of William Kingsmill, Esq. She died in 1711, and was buried in the vault erected by Bishop Smyth in St. Munchin's church.

Cahirconlish is a vicarage in the diocese of Emly, valued in the King's books at £8 0s. 9d. sterling, and united by Act of Council in 1791 to the rectory and vicarage of Carrickparson and the vicarage of Luddenbeg. This parish contains 4334 acres. Cahirconlish is situated seven miles S. E. of Limerick, and has four annual fairs, holden on the 16th of May, 20th of August, 17th of October and 5th of December. It is at present a large but not very thriving village, though it was once a walled town, containing four castles, and an extensive college, the site of which is still called "the College Field." The foundation of this seminary, and of a strong gateway that led into the town were to be seen not long since. In the village is a very handsome church with a fine steeple. Within the church and close to the communion table is a monument of the Gabbett family, and in the chancel there is a monument of the Bourkes, now occupied by the Wilson family, the present proprietors. It is in basso relievo, and on the top is a representation of the Crucifixion, with the arms of the Bourkes between the lines of the following inscription :

Hunc tumulum Theobaldus Bourke, sibi et uxori suæ Slany Brien fieri—Bourke adsum sobolis Carolina sanguine tincta atque Brianorum, Anno Domini, 1441.

The glebe-house is situated about a mile from the village. The glebe has been beautifully and tastefully planted by the present incumbent, the Rev. Richard Cox. Near the house is the castle of Carrigifarrioyla or O'Farrell's Rock. The O'Dalys were its last inhabitants, but it was built by the Bourkes; and near it is a fine old fortress called Cnoc a Tsenachuisleann, or the Old Hill of the Castle, adjoining which is the residence of Benjamin Frend, Esq.

Cahirconlish-house, situated near the village, was built a few years since by the present Major Wilson,* the old family mansion having gone to decay. It is a very magnificent structure containing many spacious apartments; and the grounds which rise boldly in front are finely planted with different kinds of ornamental and forest trees. On the 7th of Aug. 1690, King William III. encamped at Cahirconlish on his march to the siege of Limerick, as did Ge-

* The Wilson family claims great antiquity. From the "*Chronica Judicialia*" we learn, that W. Wilson was both chancellor and chaplain to William the Conqueror, and that his family settled at Elton in Yorkshire. Colonel Sir Ralph Wilson was the first of this family who came over to Ireland during the troubles between Charles I. and the Parliament. He was one of the officers who signed the Declaration published at Cork in 1659, previous to the restoration of Charles II. He had his debenture allotted him in this county, of which Cahirconlish was the principal part, together with Bohar, Kishichuirk, Liosmullane, Tiervoe, Jochtarack, &c. &c. All these lands were afterwards confirmed to him by act of settlement, and they are inserted in the patent now in the possession of his descendant, the present Major William Wilson of Cahirconlish.

neral Ginkle in the following year. In the parish of Cahirconlish is situated the castle of Brittas on the Mulchair, built by the Bourkes, Lords of Britlas.*

Inch St. Lawrence or Isert Lawrence, lies to the West of Carhirconlish. It is a rectory and vicarage endowed; the rectory being the corps of the prebend thereof is valued in the King's books at £5 1s. sterl. and of it the Archbishop of Cashel is prebendary without cure of souls. The vicarage is valued in the King's books at £1 1s. 0d. sterl. and having been united at a period to which no record reaches, to

* We learn, from *Pacata Hibernica*, that the Lord President Carew, after taking Loughgur, marched his forces into Clanwilliam, where John Bourke, half brother to Pierce Lacy of Bruff, a principal man in opposing the president, sent word that he would submit, but as he scrupled to take the oath of allegiance, Sir George refused to see him; however, he was importuned by the tears of Bourke's mother and others, and as he was married to a daughter of Sir George Thornton, he was received into favour. White's MS. p. 57, states that this John Bourke lord of Brittas, in the county of Limerick, was afterwards, by order of Lord Mountjoy, tried in Limerick for high treason in 1607, and being so strongly attached to his religion that he refused to acknowledge the King's supremacy, he was sentenced to death by the lord deputy: and executed, his remains were interred in St. John's church in that city.— On the 28th of July, 1618, Theobald de Burg, a relative of the above John Bourke, who married a daughter of the Earl of Inchiquin, was again created Baron of Brittas by James I. but he and the Lord Castle Connell being in the rebellion of 1641, were attainted and fled to France. On the accession of King James II. to the crown, they were restored to their estates which they had forfeited. But at the Revolution of 1688 they were again attainted and lost their properties..

the rectories and vicarages of Ballybrood, Listeely or Kildeely, and Rathjordan, and the entire rectory of Liscormuck, constitute the corps of the precentorship of Emly, which is valued in the King's books at £2 13s. 4d. Isert Lawrence is in the diocese of Emly, six miles S. East from Limerick, and contains 507 acres. In this parish is a burying place walled in, within which is the parish chapel. There are also the ruins of an old church, and in the midst of the graves a deep well, the water of which is supposed to be a specific for disorders in the bowels. Near this well is a spa, which is said to be equally available for liver or scorbutic affections. On a hill adjoining the church-yard, stands the ruined castle of Grenane which belonged formerly to the family of the Nunans, and beyond the castle on an eminence called Sgeahard or the High Bush, is an ancient rath. There is a stone circle near High Park, the residence of Joseph Gabbett, Esq. where a number of stones are to be seen, some lying in confusion, others in circles or direct lines. It is remarkable that they are all round, and one large stone, detached from the rest, stands erect, which measures nine feet in height, nearly the same in breadth, and is four feet thick on one side.

Luddenbeg, S. W. of Inch St. Lawrence, is a vicarage containing 650 acres, valued in the King's books at £3 1s. 0d. sterling, being one of the parishes which constitute the union of Cahirconlish. In this parish are the walls of an old abbey. The

order of the monks to which it belonged is now unknown.* On the S. and N. walls of this church, is a rude figure of our Saviour on the cross in alto relievo, and a little to the S. stood the strong Castle of Luddenmore, situated at the foot of Knockroe; in this castle lived James Goold, who died September 6th, 1600, and who was seized of the famous Dominican Convent in Limerick, and also of the castle, town and lands of Corbally, as is found by the inquisition taken August 23d, 1623.†

* Mons. Alemand in his Monastical History of Ireland gives the following account of this abbey. "There was a knight (says Matthew Paris) called Owin, of Irish birth, who having served King Stephen in his wars, got licence to repair to his native country to visit his friends, and when he came into Ireland, hearing the fame of St. Patrick's Purgatory, it came into his mind to visit the same. Being in the cave and concavities under ground he saw strange sights, and making report thereof to King Stephen, he obtained a licence henceforth to lead a solitary life; he obtained also of King Stephen a piece of a parcel of ground in Ireland to build a monastery called Ludden, an abbey of White Monks, where Gervasius became the first abbot, and where Gilbert, a monk, trained up Owin in the order thereof."

† The above J. Goold was married to Thomasin, daughter of Sir Thomas Browne of Hospital, and widow of Alexander Fitton of Knockaney in this county, Esq. by whom he had Mary, who was married to Colonel Sir George Ingoldsby, by which alliance, he got the lands of Corbally. To Colonel Ingoldsby also was granted Ballybricken castle situate in the parish of Luddenbeg, together with a very large tract of land around it: this castle is still in good repair. On the 16th of August 1650, Colonel Ingoldsby with his dragoons fell on a large party of the Irish who came out of Limerick to plunder,

Cahirelly, to the S. E. of Luddenbeg, is a vicarage valued in the King's books at £5 1s. 0d. sterling, containing 905 acres. There is no church or glebe-house in this parish, but the walls of an old church are to be seen, which is said to have been built by St. Ailbe or Alibeus, so early as the date of St. Patrick; the stone with which it is constructed is similar to that with which the cathedral of Emly was built. It contains many tombs belonging to families now unknown, with inscriptions which are scarcely legible. In this parish are two castles; one in the eastern part is much dilapidated, but the other, founded by the Hynes family, and situated in the West of the parish, has been lately handsomely fitted up by Mr. Hannan of Cahirelly, who lives near it, surrounded by some fine plantations.

Rathjordan, a rectory and vicarage adjoining Cahirelly to the S. E. is one of the parishes which constitute the Precentorship of Emly, and contains 360 acres. In this parish is Rathjordan House and lands, belonging to the Gabbet family; and in their vicinity is a well, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, which is much frequented by devotees.

killed about twenty, and pursued the rest to the gates of the city. The garrison of Limerick sent to him and requested some conditions of the neutrality which were refused by Ingoldsby. In 1689, R. Ingoldsby of Ballybricken castle, was attainted of high treason by King James's Parliament. The vast property of Ingoldsby has now passed into the hands of strangers. The late Hugh Ingoldsby Massy his descendant by the female line dying without issue, it has been purchased by Messrs. Callaghan of Cork, and Kelly of Limerick.

Rochestown, or Ballywilliam, standing West of Luddenbeg, is a vicarage in the diocese of Emly, containing 388 acres, but having no church or glebe-house. According to the Ecclesiastical Report this benefice is of very small value, and has been augmented by the trustees of Primate Boulter's fund; it contains a burying place and walls of an old church, which according to Archdall was an house for Dominican friars. In the S. E. part of this parish, on the bank of the river Comogue, are the ruins of a Friary called Bailenambratharbeg or Little Friar's town, to distinguish it from Friarstown in the parish of Fedamore. It was founded for Conventual Franciscans in the 13th century by the family of Clan Gibbon. In the 35th of Henry VIII. this friary with three acres and a stang of arable land in Baile-nambratharbeg, was granted for ever in capite to Robert Browne, at the yearly rent of twelve pence Irish money.

Castle Connell, or Stradbally, is a rectory and vicarage in the diocese of Killaloe, valued in the King's books at £2 and episcopally united to the rectory and vicarage of Kilnegariff. The union contains 1888 acres, and has a new church, but no glebe-house.

The town of Castle Connell is pleasantly situated on the river Shannon, within six miles of Limerick, and contains many handsome houses and cottages, which have increased very much within a few years. Its celebrated spa causes it to be greatly fre-

quented by the gentry in the Summer season. It is a chalybeate, and placed by Dr. Rutty in the same class with the German spa.*

At Castle Connell are the noble ruins of an ancient castle situated on an eminence which was once the seat of the O'Briens, Kings of Munster. The grandson of Brien Boiromhe was murdered here by the Prince of Thomond, who, leaving his followers at the opposite side of the Shannon, was received with unsuspecting friendship; they, however, came over in the night, surprized the grandson of Brien, put out his eyes, and murdered him. When the English landed in Ireland this castle was granted to Richard de Burgo, Earl of Ulster, known by the name of the Red Earl, on conditions of repairing and fortifying it, and from him it descended to William de Burgo, the last Earl of Ulster of that family, who being murdered at Carrick-on-Suir, Castle Connell with all his other estates should have

* The late Doctor Martin published an Essay on Castleconnell Spa, in which he agrees with Doctor Rutty, and states that the water is of the same specific gravity with that of the German Spa. It is of a ferruginous and astringent quality, a gallon producing from twenty to thirty grains of sediment, and the water deposits on the surrounding soil an ochre coloured matter which sparkles in a red hot crucible, and is attracted by the magnet. The water is found to contain a considerable mixture of marine salt and absorbent earth, and has proved very efficacious in scorbutic and bilious complaints, affections of the liver, jaundice, loss of appetite, worms, &c. It is said to be peculiarly adapted to those complaints where preparations of steel are recommended by the physicians.

devolved on his daughter the Duchess of Clarence, but it was withheld by collateral branches of the family.*

The castle was so spacious, and the ascent by steps so easy, though built on a very high rock, that a troop of horse has been drawn up in the hall. In the year 1690 it had a strong garrison of King James's forces. On the 12th of August the same year King William sent Brigadier Stuart to take it. It would have given the English much trouble to reduce it, if the governor, Captain Barnwell, had defended it properly ; but he immediately surrendered at discretion. After the siege of Limerick had been raised by King William it was again garrisoned by 250 men ; but on the 29th of August 1691, it surrendered to 700 horse under the command of the Prince of Hesse, after a siege of two days, and Ginkle considering it a strong hold, ordered it to be dismantled and blown up. The explosion was so great that it shook the houses in Limerick and broke several windows.

Kilnegariff is a rectory and vicarage, about two

* William de Burgo was created Baron of Castle Connell, in consequence of his having defeated James Fitzgerald of Desmond, who had brought the Spaniards to Kerry. De Burgo Lord Castle Connell together with Bourke, Baron of Brittas, was attainted in the Rebellion of 1641. On King James's accession to the crown they were restored to their estates ; but in 1688 they were again attainted and lost their properties. The present Sir John de Burgo and General Bourke of Thornville are the present representatives of that ancient family.

miles East of Castle Connell, and in the parish is Mount Pelier, considered a very healthy place. Here there are some handsome cottages, and an excellent sulphureous spring, famous for curing several disorders. It is immediately on the river Shannon, and separated from the county of Clare by O'Brien's Bridge. Between this place and Castle Connell is a tract of bog, a considerable part of which has been reclaimed by the neighbouring gentlemen.

On the road from Castle Connell to Limerick the scenery is highly picturesque, the country on both sides of the Shannon being beautifully ornamented with the fine mansions, groves, and parks of the nobility and gentry, while the ruins of ancient castles appear at intervals to mingle with these modern improvements. From Mr. O'Brien's turret at New Castle there is a superb view of the surrounding country, including, on the Clare side of the Shannon, Doonass, the highly ornamented demesne of Sir Hugh Dillon Massy, Bart.; and on the Limerick side, Belmont, the much admired residence of Thomas Grady, Esq. Hermitage, the fine house of the Right Hon. Lord Massy; Mount Shannon, the superb and noble seat of the Earl of Clare, with its extensive plantations; New Garden, the seat of William Ryves, Esq.; Plassy, the beautiful residence of Major Maunsell, together with many other houses and well planted parks, through which the Shannon is seen to wind to the city of Limerick: of these we shall take further notice in our description of the environs of the city.

In the barony of Clanwilliam the pasture far exceeds the arable ground, and there are large tracts of bog at Caherline, Cahirconlish, and around Catle Connell.

SMALL COUNTY.

This barony contains thirteen parishes, and according to the Ecclesiastical Survey, the parish of Fedamore, situated in the North West, contains 4,500 acres. It is a vicarage in the diocese of Limerick, valued in the King's books at £5 1s. 0d. sterling, and was episcopally united at a very remote period to the vicarage of Glenogra; and the rectorial tythes, which are in the hands of a layman, belong to the Vicars Choral of Dublin. The village of Fedamore is situated on a hill, about a mile to the West of Six-mile-bridge, which belongs to this parish. A glebe-house was lately built, and near it is the church, which is very small and unornamented. The parishes in the union are contiguous, but each is too small to afford comfort to an incumbent. The land is in general good, and there is a vast quantity of tillage of every kind. A fine bog of 400 acres belongs to the different landed proprietors whose estates surround it, namely Mr. Croker, Messrs. Callaghan and Kelly, Mr. O'Grady of Grange, Lord Egremont, and Mr. Villiers. This bog is very advantageous, not only to the tenantry on those estates, but to many others who come seven or eight miles to purchase turf. The river

Comogue overflows a great part of the low grounds for nearly six months in the year.

In this parish is Ballynaguard, the fine seat of Edward Croker, Esq. The demesne contains more than 700 acres of excellent land well inclosed and finely wooded, which, with the many extensive plantations lately made in the most judicious manner, together with the richness and fertility of the soil, renders it one of the most valuable and admired residences in the county. The house was built by the late Mr. Croker, nearly on the site of an old castle, and in the rere is a very fine range of offices. The extensive lawn forming a gentle slope in front, contains some of the finest beech, elm, oak, and ash trees in the kingdom, and on its summit is a large plantation of trees of various kinds. Within view of the house is Williamstown Castle, a plain square building destitute of outworks or fortifications, which is generally the case with most similar structures in this county. They are usually erected on bold rocky hills, or on some dry spot in marshy grounds, and surrounded with a morass which renders them almost inaccessible. Near Ballynaguard is the hill of Knockhay, which appears to have been very strongly fortified, as on it are still to be seen the remains of square and round buildings, encircled in the usual manner by a deep but dry fosse; and around the entire hill is a strong rampart of earth and stone. A quantity of human bones have been dug up here, and some

remains of iron instruments. Between the west end of this hill and Cahiravahalla is a very deep morass, in which is situated a large Rath ; and at Cahiravahalla* are the walls of a spacious old church, near which are many square pieces of fortification, similar to those works which Doctor Plot ascribes to the Saxons. In the same neighbourhood is a bold and lofty rock called in Irish *Carraig an cheud Tinne*, or the Rock of the First Fire. As it is situated near the middle of the chain of hills abovementioned, and can be seen from most of them, it is probable the first signal was given from this to the different stations around it, and that from this circumstance it received its name. Williamstown castle is said to have been built by one of the Bourkes, together with that on the site of which the house of Ballynaguard now stands.

Adjoining the demesne of Ballynaguard, is Rockstown castle, situated to the West of the public road from Limerick to Cork ; and south of the castle are the very handsome residence of James Barry, Esq. and the ruins of Rockstown church. Two miles from the castle to the right is Grange, the fine seat of Henry O'Grady, Esq. The house, in the modern style, is very spacious, and contains an extensive collection of valuable books. The emi-

* James II. created Dominick Roche, son of Jordan og Roche, who was Mayor of Limerick in 1691, and a younger branch of the ancient house of Fermoy, Viscount Cahiravahalla, for his and his family's attachment to the house of Stuart, and also restored to him those lands which were confiscated by Cromwell. His grandson was the late Sir Boyle Roche, Bart.

nence on which it is situated is well planted, and slopes down to the river Commogue, which forms here a large sheet of water, along whose bank an excellent gravel-walk leads to a handsome shrubbery, from whence a fine cascade is discerned through the surrounding foliage: clumps of trees ornament the lawn, a little to the westward of which is the hill of Skule, thickly planted. The old mansion house, with its fine deer park, is now become the property of the Count de Salis, by the death of the late proprietor Standish O'Grady, Esq. who was brother-in-law to the present Lord Harborton. Beyond the village of Grange, close to the public road from Limerick to Cork, on the left, are three curious stone circles. The first is forty-five yards in diameter, and consists at present of sixty-five large upright stones, but there were formerly many more. One of these stones is thirteen feet high, seven feet broad, and four feet thick. The entire circle is surrounded by a sloping bank about twelve feet in breadth, and six in height. At a short distance to the N. of this is another circle fifty yards in diameter, consisting of seventy-two smaller stones standing, and a little to the E. a third, which is but seventeen yards in diameter, and composed of fifteen large rocks standing erect. A few yards to the E. of these is a large stone lying flat, seven feet and a half in length, six in height, and four and a half in breadth, which is generally supposed to have been the altar for sacrifice.

About a mile S. W. of Fedamore is Cloch na Monach or Monk's Stone, where are the remains of some ancient buildings, but of their date or founder we have no trace. In the northern part of the parish is Friarstown, the old residence of the Hunt family, near which the present Vere Hunt, Esq. has built a very handsome house. In its neighbourhood, are the fine remains of an ancient abbey, "embosomed high in tufted trees:" founder not known. On the summit of Friarstown hill, looking a little to the W. is a large Dûn or fort, and on the E. side, the walls of a handsome abbey, no mention of which is made in any of our Monasticons.*

Glenogra Parish is divided from that of Fedamore on the S. by the river Commogue, over which there is a good bridge with three arches. It is a vicarage in the diocese of Limerick, containing 2013 acres, valued in the King's books at £1 sterling. Fairs are holden here on the 31st of May, and 28th of October. The castle of Glenogra, surrounded by a high and strong wall, is situated on the banks of the Commogue. In the year 1600, Pierce Lacy of

* The late Mr. Hunt, of Friarstown, having employed his workmen to remove some loose stones that were in the aisle, they discovered a smooth flag, which he caused to be taken up, and in a hollow under it he found a large earthen crock, covered with another flag, which he expected to find filled with money, as it was generally supposed that much treasure had been buried in many abbeys at their suppression. But to his great disappointment, after taking off the cover it proved to be empty, which led him to conjecture that some person acquainted with the secret had robbed it of its contents.

Bruff, then in arms against Queen Elizabeth, plundered the town, which belonged to Sir George Bouchier, Master of the Ordnance, being a parcel of his Seignior, and then in farm to Alexander Fitton of Knockaney, which caused the President Carew, to assemble his forces at Kilmallock to watch the motions of the enemy. Near the castle are the walls of an old abbey, but respecting it we have no information. About a mile to the southward is Cahir House, the property of the Chief Baron, which is situated in a valley nearly surrounded with rising grounds, and the approach is through a straight avenue of ancient ash and elms, about a mile in length. Here are some very fine ever-greens, and other curious trees, particularly the Cedar of Lebanon. The park is well stocked with deer, and the demesne is considered one of the most interesting in the county, for the Rath and other remains of antiquity which it contains.

Kilpeacon, a rectory entire in the diocese of Limerick, joins Fedamore on the N.; it was united at a period prior to any existing record, to the entire rectory of Hackneys or Cregane, and by Act of Council in 1803, to the vicarage of Knocknegaul, in the Liberties of Limerick, being the corps of the prebend thereof, which is valued in the King's books at £0 13s. 4d. Irish money, and contains 1777 acres. At Kilpeacon is a very fine church, ornamented with a handsome tower, and there is a glebe-house not far from the church, about

five miles and a quarter from Limerick. The parishes of Knocknegaul and Kilpeacon are contiguous; but that of Hackneys is about eight miles distance from them. According to the Ecclesiastical Report the benefices of Kilpeacon and Knocknegaul are, separately, too small to afford the means of comfort to a resident incumbent. Within the church is a fine marble monument to the memory of Sir William King, Knt. with a long Latin inscription.*

The ancient demesne of Kilpeacon was nobly planted with ash, oak and elm, many of which still remain, and the park was well stocked with deer. The castle which was lately pulled down by the present proprietor, stood near the church, and adjoining the castle was the fine old mansion of Sir William King, which, together with the greater part of its rich furniture and fine library, was burnt down about fifty years ago by accident in the life time of the late Edward Villiers, Esq. of Kilpeacon, to whom it then belonged. Sir William King together with Robert Oliver, Esq. represented this county in Parliament in 1661. He was Mayor of Limerick in

* Sir William King married Barbara, daughter of Doctor John Boyle, Bishop of Cork, and widow of Sir John Brown, of Hospital, who was killed in a duel about the year 1641: by whom having no male issue, his property descended to both his grand nephews in succession, Richard and Edward Villiers, Esqrs. who dying without issue, it became the property of their nephew, Joseph Crips of Edwardstown, Esq. who took the name of Villiers, and from him it descended to his grandson, the present Edward Villiers, Esq.

1665, in which year he entertained and lodged the Duke of Ormond, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, who visited Limerick accompanied by many of the Nobility. In 1690 he was governor of Limerick, and there made prisoner by the Irish; but having escaped, he gave the English army, then besieging it, much useful information.

Edward Villiers, Esq. the present proprietor, has built a noble mansion near the site of the old house. In its vicinity is a place called *Bawnachumtha*, or the Camp-field, in which are some Rathes and circular fortifications.* On the summit of Green-hill in this parish, is a very large Rath or Dûn, about 350 feet in circumference, and from 15 to 20 feet high, while on the flat ground are many of that description denominated a Lios, or fortification of the second sort, which is formed by the earth being thrown up from the surrounding trench. They are all within call of each other, and it is conjectured that a chain of these fortifications was carried on to Limerick, which was the principal station of the Danes from the ninth to the eleventh century. The signal given from Limerick could be easily seen at those elevated points, and from thence conveyed to others more distant.

* In the summer of 1821, a peasant whilst trenching potatoes on the lands of Kilpeacon, found a golden crown in the form of a large oyster shell. It weighed $5\frac{1}{2}$ ounces, and was sold to a goldsmith in Dublin by Mr. Villiers for sixteen pounds sterling, which he gave to the poor man.

Cahircorney is a vicarage in the diocese of Emly, valued in the King's books at £3 1s. 0d. sterl. and episcopally united in 1795 to the small vicarage of Kilcullane : the union contains about 1400 acres. There is a good church* here, and a handsome glebe-house, built under the direction of the late Archbishop of Cashel, on a glebe of seven acres, situated on the town lands of Ballingoola in the northern extremity of the parish, and on the river Commogue which separates it from Rochestown and Cahirelly.†

A small stream that runs into the Commogue, at a short distance from the glebe of Ballingoola, on the N. W. divides the Diocese of Cashel from that

* Near the church is a handsome monument belonging to the Croker family, with the following inscription :

This burying-place and Monument were both made and erected at the charges of Edward Croker, Esq. for him and his to be deposited in till the resurrection of the dead, in the year of our Lord 1723, and in the 70th year of his age, being then blessed with a numerous issue of his children's children, and an honest handsome provision for them.

Which being done, it may be truly said

He did provide for living and for dead ;

For which, to God be thanks and praises due,

And the meet help he gave me so to do.—Edward Croker."

† Sir Henry Sydney, in a letter to Queen Elizabeth, dated from the Castle of Dublin, 28th April 1576, says, that in the choice of ministers for the remote parts of Ireland it must be necessary that such be chosen as can speak Irish, and therefore recommends to the Queen to write to the Regent of Scotland to send some ministers of the Reformed Church who could speak that language ; accordingly we find from the records of the first fruits, that Donald Mac Feig, a Scotchman, was incumbent of Cahircorney in the reign of James I. who acted on Sydney's advice.

of Limerick. More than three-fourths of the parish are meadow and pasture lands, and a chain of beautiful verdant hills, consisting of limestone soil, runs through it : there is a natural fall for springs and rain from those hills into the Commogue, on the opposite side of which river, and parallel to it, is another range of hills, consisting of very rich pasture. The intermediate space is a level plain consisting of corcass lands, covered with water for nearly six months in the year, which is caused by the overflowing of the Commogue. In consequence of this the air is cold, and the houses and furniture are very damp ; and in Spring, when the quantity of stagnant water thus collected, is exhaling by the sun's heat, the inhabitants are subject to colds, coughs, and sore throats. The sinking and widening of the river would, in a great measure, prove a remedy to this evil ; which could be effected by lowering the bed of the stream five or six feet, for about sixty yards, at Longford bridge ; and also at the glebe of Ballingoola. At present the river is on a level with those two places, so that the cutting of drains to convey the water from them into it would be of no use.

At Raleighstown is an ancient building consisting of a bawn 180 feet long and 120 feet wide, the wall of which is twelve feet high and four feet thick. Within the bawn is a strong house of lime and stone, three stories high, and eighty feet long by thirty in breadth ; at each of the four angles is a square tower, with port holes ; and it is conjectured from its stone

window frames and flankers, to have been built in the reign of James I. : for we find from Pynnar's Survey of Ulster in 1618, that during the above reign, structures of this kind were entitled to 1500 acres of land. This estate might have been granted by the above monarch to Mr. Carew Raleigh, son of Sir Walter Raleigh, who did not accompany his father on the unfortunate expedition to Guiana, where his brother was shot; or to Captain George Raleigh, his nephew, as a sort of expiation for Sir Walter's death.

Kilcullane is a vicarage in the diocese of Emly, valued in the King's books at £3 1s. 3d. sterling, and is one of the parishes which constitute the union of Cahircorney, to which it is contiguous: but according to the Ecclesiastical Report, the two parishes are of so little value, that they receive augmentation from the trustees of Primate Boulter's fund, to make the income £60 per annum. In Kilcullane is an old mansion of the Bouchier family, and also the walls of an old church and a castle on the Commogue: this property was lately purchased by Chief Baron O'Grady. In the union is Herbertstown, a long village of thatched houses, where four fairs are held annually, on the 15th of January, the 17th of March, the 28th of June, and the 7th of November. At these fairs an immense number of pigs are sold to buyers from Cork, Limerick, Clonmel, and Waterford.

Ballinard, or Cahirfossairge, a vicarage valued in

the King's books at £3 1s. 0d. sterling, is one of the parishes which constitute the union of Aney. It is in the diocese of Emly, joining Kilcullane parish on the N. E., is ten miles distant from Limerick, and contains 740 acres of land. On the hill of Ballinard are the ruins of an old church; and north of the church are the walls of a castle, formerly the residence of the Fitzgeralds of Ballinard, the last of whom was William Fitzgerald, Esq. High Sheriff of the county in 1778, and Mayor of Limerick in 1786.

Ballynamona, or Moorstown, a vicarage valued in the King's books at £3 1s. 0d. sterling, is also one of the parishes which constitute the union of Aney, and contains 1750 acres. On the banks of a small river which covers the road from Herbertstown to Hospital are the ruins of a church and castle. We find that a Raleigh was proprietor of this castle in the reign of Charles II. North of Ballynamona is Ballinlough, a vicarage in the same union: it is situated five miles and a quarter E. S. E. of Six-mile-Bridge, and contains 1095 acres of land.

Aney or Knockaney, joining both the above parishes, is a vicarage in the diocese of Emly, valued in the King's books at £6 1s. 6d. sterling, united by Act of Council from time immemorial to the vicarages of Ballinlough, Ballynamona, Ballinard, Hospital, Kilfrush, and Long (in Coshlea barony,) which union contains 12,000 acres. It is twelve miles S. E. of Limerick, and possesses a very neat church with a handsome spire, and a good glebe-house.

Aney is a small village, situated on the West bank of the river Commogue, where a friary for Eremites following the rules of St. Augustine was founded in the reign of King Henry II. In the 31st of Queen Elizabeth, a lease was made to Edward Absley, and John and Mary Absley, of this friary for the term of 40 years, at the annual rent of £47 7s. 6d. : the ruins of the building are still visible. Here also are the noble ruins of a castle on the river, erected by the Earl of Desmond ; and in the village is situated a small castle, built by the O'Grady of Kilballyowen, whose fine mansion stands about a mile west of the village of Aney. The house was built by the late Mr. O'Grady on the site of the old residence : the offices are extensive and regular, the demesne finely wooded, and the deer park well stocked and enclosed. It is situated on the west of Knockaney hill, one of the finest in Munster. In the hall of Kilballyowen are three very large pair of moose deer horns, measuring about eleven feet from tip to tip.*

* The estate of Kilballyowen is said to have been granted to Matt. O'Grady, the first of that family who came here from the county of Clare, by the then Earl of Desmond, for having performed with integrity the duties of a confidential situation in which he placed him, whilst absent on state affairs in England. O'Grady built at that time, the castle in the village, in which he placed all Desmond's plate and valuable effects, to protect them from the rapparees who lurked in the woods, and infested that part of the county. - The O'Grady's are a very old and respectable Irish family, and though generally, till a comparatively short period, of the Roman Catholic religion,

In the parish of Aney are the ruins of the fine castle of Baggotstown, built by the family of the Baggots. It has five chimnies of polished stone in shape of an hexagon, and the top of each is so formed as to have the appearance of an inverted cone : this castle formed two sides of a square. It has no appearance of having been defended by outworks ; but it was rendered almost inaccessible by the marshy grounds and trenches by which it is surrounded. John Baggot, of this place, attended the General Assembly of Confederate Catholics which met at Kilkenny on the 10th of January 1647 : he was also one of the commissioners on the side of the Irish, who signed the Articles of Limerick with Ireton, on the 27th of October 1651. His son, Maurice Baggot of Baggotstown, was among those who were excepted from general pardon on

they preserved their property amidst the various Civil Wars of Ireland. In the calamitous period of 1641, Lacy of Bruff forfeited his estate, which was granted to Sir Thomas Standish, who had three daughters ; the eldest of whom married Francis Hartstonge of Southreps, in the county of Norfolk, Esq. ; the second daughter married Mr. Cox of Ballynoe in this county, and the third was married to O'Grady of Kilballyowen, by which alliance the estate was preserved. Not one of this family took part in the Rebellion of 1641, nor was any one of them deputed to attend the General Assembly of Delegates which met soon after at Kilkenny. On the contrary, we find that in 1643, when the English, commanded by Vavasor, were totally defeated by the Irish under Lord Castlehaven, in the passage of the Blackwater, near Fermoy, they lost all their colours except one pair, which was saved by the gallant behaviour of Ensign Dermod O'Grady, of this family.

the surrender of the city at the same time ; and the castle and vast estate annexed to it, were then forfeited. On a square stone of one of those chimnies which has fallen, are the figures 1019 in alto relievo, which some imagine to be the date of the year in which the castle was built ; but from every appearance it seems to have been erected at a much later period.*

Loughgur, which is in the N. part of the parish of Aney, and about ten miles S. E. of Limerick, has been celebrated from the remotest antiquity: it is nearly four miles in circumference, and almost surrounded by lofty hills, consisting of grey rocks, covered with the most luxuriant green pasture. In the lake are three islands, one of which, called Cnoc a Duin or the Fortified Hill, is very beautiful, and contains about sixty acres. This hill on the S. side was defended by two very strong castles, the approach to which was by a causeway fifteen feet broad and six high : one of these called the Black Castle still remains. Both were connected by a wall near fif-

* A few years back the wife of a farmer named O'Brien, who lived near this place, becoming deranged, was confined in a vault of the castle, and tied with a chain to a large and heavy harrow ; but having contrived to break the chain and door of the cell, she got out and climbed up to one of the chimnies, by means of some projecting stones in the wall. The chimney is ninety feet high, and scarcely half a foot in breadth ; but on the top of this she stood and turned herself about, to the great astonishment and terror of the spectators, and after some time descended in safety.

teen feet high and eight thick, made up of immense blocks of stone—they are the largest that can be seen in any building of this kind in the county. A very strong arched gateway in this wall was the entrance into the hill. Over this arch, which is about fifteen feet in depth, was another strong building, and on each side of it were two lodgments with loop-holes.

The situation of the hill and of these castles, surrounded with a deep lake, and the lake nearly encompassed with rocky and lofty hills, rendered them very formidable to the President Carew, in the reign of Elizabeth, as appears from the following description of the place which we give in his own words:—

“The five and twentieth of May 1600, the army passing by Loughgur, which was as yet held by the rebels, the President, attended by a troop of horse, went to take a view of the strength and situation thereof, and also by what way he could bring the cannon to annoy the same; he found it to be a place of exceeding strength, by reason that it was an island encompassed by a deep lough, the breadth thereof being in the nearest place a caliver's shot over. On one side thereof standeth a very strong castle, which at this time was manned with a good garrison, for there was within the island John Fitz Thomas with 200 men at the least, who shewed themselves prepared to defend the place.”

After taking a view of the fortifications Carew marched to Limerick, where having prepared the can-

non fit for the siege of the castle of Loughgur, he was informed that Owen Grome, a stranger of the North, to whom John Fitz Thomas had committed the custody of it, had betrayed it for his pardon and sixty pounds in money, which Carew promised to give him.

On the E. end of Cnoc a Duin or Knockadoon is another strong castle almost entire. From its construction and modern appearance, it is supposed to have been built during the reign of Elizabeth, by Sir George Bouchier, son to the second Earl of Bath, to whom on the forfeiture of Desmond, it was granted. It came afterwards into the possession of the Countess of Bath who built a very handsome chapel of ease, called New Church, on the S. side of the lake: she also granted an endowment of £20. sterling per annum, which is in the gift of the Count de Salis, to whom the estate belongs in right of his mother, a daughter of Lord Fane. The chalice and patten which the Countess of Bath bestowed on this chapel are now in the parish church of Knockaney, and on them is the following inscription: "The gift of the Right Hon. Rachel, Countess Dowager of Bath, to her Chapel in the Kingdom of Ireland, Ann. Dom. 1679."

On the N. side of the hill of Knockadoon in Loughgur, is a cave about twenty-two feet in depth, and generally about twelve feet broad, and ten high. The mouth of the cave, which is four feet broad and seven high, is hidden by an alder tree. The ascent is steep and rough, occa-

sioned by huge rocks that have fallen in every direction towards the lake; and over the cave are irregular layers of large projecting rocks, rising about twenty feet above it. A gun fired off from this place has a surprizing and grand effect, as the echo is reverberated loudly from the surrounding hills. The flocks of waterfowl, consisting of heavy duck, wigeon, teal, and diver, which are continually hovering over the lake, add to the picturesque beauty of this charming scene. In Summer, when the wind blows from the S. E. the water becomes thick and green, emitting a very fetid smell;—an occurrence which may arise from the putrefaction of weeds or insects with which it is impregnated.*

On Bailenalcailleach hill in this neighbourhood,

* About fifty years ago, Mr. Stackpoole Baylee of Loughgur, made some attempts to drain the lake. To effect this he sunk a channel some feet deep, by which the water was conveyed to the low grounds on the W. Some inconsiderable portion of land full of rocks was gained, but the farther progress of the work was stopped by the death of Mr. Baylee, who was killed by a fall from his horse, on his return at night from a neighbouring gentleman's house where he had dined. The country people, to this day, firmly believe that it was Garret Fitz Gerald, Earl of Desmond, that killed him for attempting to drain the lake. They also as firmly believe that Desmond at the end of every seven years, is seen riding and driving on the lake; and that when his horse's shoes, which are made of silver, are worn out, he will return to this life again, being now detained by enchantment. Such were the ideas they had of Desmond's greatness, that they supposed no earthly power superior to his. This was the unfortunate Earl who fought against Queen Elizabeth's forces in Munster.

is a cromleach, near which a stone coffin was found a few years since with a human skeleton. At less than half-a-mile south of this are two others, one of which has been lately broken down by a farmer, who had two of the stones taken to make pillars for his gateway. On the W. pinnacle of Knockfennell, is one of the strongest Danish forts in the country: it is circular, and about 360 feet in circumference; the wall that surrounds it is ten feet in thickness, and must have been proportionably high, from the quantity of stone that has fallen outside. That part of the wall that still remains is built of large stones nearly three feet every way, regularly fitted to each other, and the interstices filled up with small ones; but there is no sign of mortar. From this down to the lake, walls of similar construction extend, at about sixty yards asunder to the N. side of the hill, where they terminate at some deep marsh or morass: these walls are connected by others of the same kind. On the E. point of Knockfennell, which is very high, there is a smaller fortification, and along the valley which lies between those high points, the remains of walls can be traced terminating in like manner at the lake to the S. and the deep grounds to the N. Whether the intermediate spaces between them were cultivated, the walls serving as termini or boundaries, or were designed to render the fortress on the top of the hill more impregnable, is only now to be conjectured. On an eminence joining the lake on the E. similar fortifications are found, surrounded with immense rough

rocks, the ascent to which from the lake side is very rugged, difficult, and high. Such was one of the strong holds of Desmond, “who,” says Baker’s Chronicle, “possessed whole counties, together with the county palatine of Kerry, and had of his own name and race at least 500 gentlemen at his command,* all of whom, and his own life also, he lost within the space of three years.

This part of the county is rich in picturesque beauty. The view of the lake from Knockfennell, and of the many verdant hills which surround it—the Castle Oliver and Ballyhoura Mountains, called the Mountains of Mole by Spenser; with the intermediate country, the richest and finest in Ireland, over which are scattered many old castles and churches, villages and thriving plantations; furnishes a most romantic prospect, and reminds one of the following lines of Holcroft’s Sceptic:—

“Anon on lofty hills I stand,
 “View the green corn and furrowed land,
 “See mountain, valley, wood and mead,
 “And shepherd stray and cattle feed,
 “And distant hills and water spy,
 “That glitter pleasure to the eye,
 “While the sweet landscape doth unite,
 “Innumerable objects of delight.”

To particularize the view from Knockfennell:—on the west are seen the Castles of Rathcannon,

* There is not, says Sir John Davis, (Hist. Tracts, page 130,) to be found in any kingdom in Europe, so many gentlemen of the same blood, family, and surname, as there are of the O’Neals in Ulster; of the Bourkes in Connaught; and of the Fitz Gerald and Butlers in Munster and Leinster.

Rathmore, and Glenogra ; Toryhill, and the hill of Knockfirine—beyond them the Abbeyfeale Mountains ; and yet further, the very high mountain called the Paps, near the Lake of Killarney, a distance of fifty miles. On the N. there is a fine view of the country with Ballybricken, Skule, Rockstown, and Carraig O'Gconnuil Castles, the Knockroe hills, the city of Limerick, the majestic Shannon, and the County of Clare mountains. On the E. the spectator can discern the Commogue winding between the verdant hills of Cahirelly and Raleighstown, Ballybrood hill with its handsome church and spire, the fertile hill of Pallas Greine, and beyond it the Sleibthe Phœlim in the county of Tipperary : while to the S.E. the prospect is bounded by the lofty Sliabhnambann in the same county. Thus from this interesting spot may be seen some part of every county in Munster.

Near New Church, beforementioned, on the S. side of Lough Gur, is a very large and high rock full of chasms and hollows, called in Irish, the *Mass Rock*; which name it received from the circumstance of Mass being said in a hollow of this rock, during the Civil Wars of the 17th century, when its public celebration was prohibited by the English Parliament. Between this rock and the public road, is situated Monistir na Gcailleach, a nunnery dedicated to St. Catherine, for the Canonesses of St. Augustine. An inquisition taken 8th of March, 20th of Elizabeth, finds that the following rectories in the diocese of

Limerick, were appropriated to the Abbess, viz. Nova Grangia, now called Grange, the seat of Henry O'Grady, Esq. annual value 20s. and Dunmoylan, annual value 20s. The presentation to the vicarage of Dunmoylan also belonged to the Abbess, with the rectories of Drishane, Cullen, Nohavel, Kilmeen and Dromtariff, in the barony of Duhallow, in the county of Cork. This nunnery, with the lands, &c. thereunto belonging, was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Henry Wallop, Knt. But what renders this place most remarkable is, that within a few yards of the abbey, are still to be seen the old walls of the house that belonged to a branch of the family of the Brownes of Camas, so famous for their exploits in Russia and Germany.*

* General Count Browne of Russia, was Governor-General of Livonia, and signalized himself by his great bravery at the battle of Zorndorff. He married the daughter of Field-Marshal Lacy, by whom he had issue General and Colonel Browne, employed in the service of the Emperor Joseph. Ulysses Maximilian Browne, son of Ulysses Baron de Browne, a Colonel of Cuirassiers in the Austrian service, was born at Basle, in 1705, and educated at the Diocesan school of Limerick, under the Rev. Mr. Cashin. He was afterwards called into Hungary by his uncle, Count George Browne, Colonel of a Regiment of Infantry under the Emperor Charles VI. and for his great services he was raised to the dignity of Field-Marshal. He died in 1757, and his life was soon after published at Prague. With respect to the merit of Field-Marshal Browne, we have the following foreign testimony. "It must be acknowledged that the victory of Lobositz was bravely disputed by Browne, an officer of great activity, fertile in expedients, wise in the planning of any enterprize, and prompt in the execution of it. If I were to compare him with any of the ancients, I should place him by the

To the E. of Knockaney is Hospital, a vicarage belonging to the union. The village is about half a mile long, consisting mostly of thatched houses: its fairs, famous for the sale of horses, are held on the 9th of July and 8th of September. In the Records, this is always called the Hospital of Aney, although it is a full mile E. of that village. A commandery of Knights Hospitallers was founded here under the invocation of St. John the Baptist, A. D. 1226, by Geoffry de Maresco, who was then Lord Justice of Ireland; and he appears to have been the first who had a salary payable out of the Exchequer, which was only 500 marks. Queen Elizabeth granted this Hospital and its possessions to Sir Valentine Browne, who erected here a magnificent castle which is now in ruins.* The walls of the ancient church yet remain, and in a niche on the N. side of the high altar is a rudely shaped statue of a knight in alto relievo with sword and buckler, which is supposed to be that of the founder. Near

side of Vespasian and Marcellus. He deserves the favour he enjoys at the Court of Vienna, and is worthy of being the opponent to the King of Prussia. His retreat, in order to gain the Camp at Baden, is considered an admirable manœuvre. But what did him infinitely more credit, was the march he undertook six days after the battle of Lobositz towards Saxony, to liberate the King of Poland and his army from the Russians. On this occasion it was observed, in allusion to his attempt at Velehi, that whether Browne endeavoured to take or liberate a king, he was equally successful."

* Sir Thomas Browne of Hospital, son of the above mentioned Sir Valentine Browne, married Mary, eldest daughter

the village is the well improved seat of Joseph Gubbins, Esq. of Kenmare castle.

South of Hospital is the vicarage of Kilfrush or Dunmoon, a vicarage in the same union, nine miles S. E. from Tipperary. Here is a good house with very handsome improvements, belonging to Joseph Gubbins, Esq. and one mile W. of Kilfrush, is Elton house, and well planted demesne, the once hospitable mansion of Standish O'Grady, Esq. uncle to the Earl of Ilchester, and the Marchioness of Lansdowne.

About two miles and a half S. of the village of Aney, is Athannessy, a rectory entire in the diocese of Limerick, valued in the King's books at 13s. 4d. Irish money, being one of the parishes that constitute the union of Kilmallock, which is N. W. of it, and distant about five miles. Here are the remains of an old church with a burying place.

Tullybracca is a rectory entire, valued in the King's books at £3. In that part of the parish which is in the barony of Small County stands Rockbarton, the magnificent seat and demesne of the present Chief Baron. The house contains a fine hall, a noble staircase of Portland stone, and the various apartments are highly decorated and splen-

and co-heiress of William Apsley of Limerick, by his wife Annabella Browne eldest of ten daughters of John Browne, Master of Aney, and Catharine O'Ryan his wife. Joan the sister of the above Mary, was the first wife of Richard Boyle, the first Earl of Cork.

didly furnished. The house commands a very extensive view of a finely undulated country in a high state of cultivation. Near Rockbarton is the new and beautiful church of Tullybracca, which, with its fine steeple, is built of hewn stone. The windows are in the Gothic style, with stone frames. The interior is elegantly simple and uniform; but the tower is disproportionate to the size of the church. Besides the sum allotted by the Board of First Fruits, for the building of this church, the Chief Baron, with a munificence worthy of imitation, has expended £2000 on its decoration. The cemetery of the parish is about half a mile to the S. W. where formerly stood the walls of an old church, and near it the castle of Tullybracca; but they are now levelled with the ground. The glebe-house is new, to which belongs a fine glebe of forty-five acres of the richest ground.

COSHMA.

This barony lies S. W. by W. of that of Small County, and contains fifteen parishes.

Bruff is a vicarage in the diocese of Limerick, episcopally united in 1754 to the rectory and vicarage of Kilbreedy minor. According to the Ecclesiastical Report, these parishes are four miles distant from each other, but it was judged expedient to unite them, in order to create an adequate support for the clergyman. Bruff is a post-town, twelve miles S. E. of Limerick, the road from that city to Cork

passing through it. The town contains some good houses, and has a weekly market, which is held on Friday, and four fairs annually, namely, on the 24th of May, 23d of July, 18th of October, and 28th of November. Here is also a Sessions-house, where the assistant barrister for the county holds his court. The old church which was going to decay, was thrown down about fifty years ago by Lady Lucy Hartstonge, wife of Sir Henry Hartstonge, Bart.* and sister to the late Lord Viscount Pery.

On the banks of the river which is called the Dawn, was a very handsome house built by the Hartstonge family, on the site of the castle of the Lacys.†

* Laurence, in his "Interest of Ireland," p. 181, states, that about the year 1664, many persons of quality having gained possession of great scopes of land, in several of their lots they found old ruined towns, and discerning no other way to get them planted, grew eager of manufactures, to whom the Duke of Ormond, then Lord Lieutenant, gave all possible encouragement; so that in a few years after, many considerable manufactures were erected by private persons. As for instance, in Munster, by the Earl of Orrery at Charleville; several Dutch merchants in Limerick and Clare; and Baron Hartstonge, at Bruff.

† The ancient house of Lacy has produced many exalted characters. There were three branches of this family, seated at Bruree, Bruff, and Ballingarry, in this county, in 1651. The loss of their possessions did not extinguish the memory of the achievements of their heroic ancestors. Deprived by the unhappy circumstances of the country, of the exercise of their inherent military virtues, they found in the service of those foreign sovereigns, under whose banners they bled, and whose armies they often led to victory, honours as high, and distinctions as marked, as were ever conferred on any family. The victories of Field-Marshal Lacy gave such weight to the

At Bruff were formerly some pleasure grounds, wilderness-walks, cascades, a fine planted park, and groves at each side of the river ; but the timber has been cut down and sold by order of the Earl of Limerick, who, on the death of Sir Henry Hartstonge, became possessed of the town of Bruff.*

Empress Maria Theresa's representations at the Diet of Sweden, that they contributed to preserve the crown to the then reigning royal family, as his conduct at and subsequent to the siege of Dantzick secured the crown of Poland for King Augustus. The Marshal's son was afterwards in high esteem with the Emperor, for his abilities as a general and statesman.

In the year 1732, Oran was besieged by a body of Moors, and from their numbers and the fierceness of their attacks, the town was apprehended to be in the utmost danger. The regiment of Ultonia or Ulster, consisting of two battalions, and then commanded by General Lacy, a native of the county of Limerick ; was ordered to embark to relieve that important place. As soon as they had landed on the beach and had taken some refreshment, they requested the Governor to direct a sortie, or at least to order a body of troops to support them, and they would directly attack the enemy in their trenches. The proposal animating the garrison with fresh courage, they seconded the generous offer. General Lacy immediately led his brigade to action, and after a bloody conflict, victory proved decisive in favour of the Spaniards ; the Moors being completely defeated, their camp plundered, and all their ordnance and military stores brought into the garrison. General Lacy married a daughter of the Marquis of Abbeville, by whom he had a son, afterwards Captain-General of the Artillery to his Most Catholic Majesty, and Knight of the Order of Carlos Tercero ; and a daughter who married the Marquis of Canada, (originally Irish,) of the ancient family of Terry.

* In the church of Bruff, to the left of the communion table stands a monument of black marble, on which is the following inscription :—

All the lands on the left extending a good way to the east and south, belong to the Evans or Carbery family.* About a mile from this is the castle of Bally Grenan, a very fine and noble building, surrounded with ramparts and battlements: it surrendered without resistance to Cromwell's forces. Mr. Evans after obtaining this property, materi-

"This Monument, with the Chappel, was pulled downe, to be sett up and better repaired in the Memory of Sir Thomas Standish of Bruff, Knight, deceased, by Standish Hartstonge, Esq. Recorder of the Citty of Lymrick, and second justice of the province of Munster, his Grandchild by Elizabeth, the eldest Daughter of Sir Thomas, who was Maryed to Francis Hartstonge of Southreps in the County of Norfolck, Esq. wich Standish their ondy sonne, first maryed Elizabeth the eldest daughter of Francis Jeremy of Gunton, in the county of Norfolck, Esq. and had issue by her, Eleaven children, whereof three sonns and four daughters are now living, wich Elizabeth dying, he Maryed Anne, the Daughter of his Grace Dr. John Bromhal, late Lord Primate of all Ireland, who is now co-heire to Sir Thomas Bromhal, Baronet, his Sonne, who died without issue; wich Standish and Anne, are yet living this 18th Octo. 1676. Sept. 4th 1685, Anne dying 3 years past the same, Sir Standish, now Bart. and Second Baron of the Exchequer Maryed Johanna the Eldest Sister of Sir Rowland Gwyn, 3 of the County Radnor, who hath now issue one sonne named Gwyn 3 months old."

* John Evans, gentleman, was the first of this family who came over from England to Ireland, and settled at Limerick in 1628; his son George Evans served in the army to stop the Rebellion of 1641, and afterwards settling at Bally Grenan, got estates by the act of settlement, purchased from Major Griffith, Edward Reily, and John Roe: he built the chapel of Bally Grenan where he was buried. George Evans, son to the above George, after the reduction of Limerick, lived at Bulgadeen Hall: his son was created Lord Carbery. Thomas Evans of Miltown, was his second son, who married the daughter of John Waller of Castletown, Esq. The second George Evans married in 1673, a daughter of John Eyre, of Eyre-court; his daughter Elizabeth married Hugh Massy, created Lord Massy. George Evans, created Baron Carbery in 1715, died at Caherass in 1749.

ally improved the whole of the district in which it lay.*

About a mile from Bruff, on the left, are the walls of an old church, called Uregare. Opposite the church on the right, is Newlawn, a handsome house belonging to George Gubbins, Esq. It was formerly called Uregare house, and belonged to the family of the Creeds. Behind Newlawn, is a townland called *Baileangheodhramhar*, where Admiral Sir Edmond Nagle was born. Joining Uregare on the west, is Tankardstown, a rectory and vicarage, the latter being valued in the King's books at £1 10s. sterling, and it is holden by faculty with the vicarage of Kilmoylan. It is two miles N. W. from Kilmallock, consists mostly of rich pasture, and contains 1050 acres of land.

Dromin, still further to the west, is a rectory and vicarage, valued in the King's books at £2 sterling, and episcopally united, as far back as any record in the diocese reaches, to the rectory and vicarage of Athlacca. Here are the ruins of a castle and the walls of an old church, with a burying place, close to which is a fine glebe. In this parish is Maidstown Castle, the birth-place of Daniel Webb, Esq.

* The undertakers and planters, who settled in Munster since the reign of Queen Elizabeth, gave the country a very different appearance from what it had before their arrival, by draining, fencing, fertilizing, (where it was necessary,) and planting hedgerows, orchard, fruit, and timber trees, of every kind.

who distinguished himself both by his critical taste in the fine arts, and his writings. The latter consisted of Remarks on the Beauties of Poetry, and Observations on the correspondence between Poetry and Music, which he dedicated to the Duke of Grafton. This parish contains 4000 acres, chiefly very rich pasture. The inhabitants suffer much in wet seasons from want of fuel, as they are distant eight miles from any bog. There is no Protestant family in the parish, while the Roman Catholic chapel is generally crowded.

The parish of Athlacca bounds Dromin on the north and west. It contains 3000 acres, and possesses a very handsome church, with a tower and spire, which have been lately built. The glebe is close to the church, and has been very much improved and tastefully planted by the present incumbent, the Rev. Edward Croker. Near the church, is a bridge over the river Dawn, which at about a mile to the west, discharges itself into the Maig. A great part of this parish is a dead flat, consisting of very poor, wet grounds, presenting to the view, a joyless dreary waste, as far as the river Maig, without a tree or bush of any kind, except at Castle Ievers. The peasantry are in general, wretchedly poor, and in winter they, as well as the people of the neighbouring parish, suffer much from want of fuel, their only substitute for which is frequently dried cow-dung, when the weather permits them to collect it. In the church-

yard is the burying place of the Webbs, and also of some of the ancient and renowned family of the Lacys.*

A mile north of the church, is Tulleboy Castle, now called Castle Ievers, the seat of Robert Ievers, Esq. The demesne is rich and well planted; and here is made some of the best cider in Munster, particularly of that kind called kekagee,

“A costly liquor, by improving time,

“Equal to what the happiest vintage bears.”

PHILIPS.

Near Castle Ievers are the walls of an old church called Rostemple. There is but one Protestant family in this parish, while a large congregation attends the Roman Catholic chapel. During the siege of Limerick, some militia dragoons were defeated at Athlacca by the Irish garrison of Newcastle, who at the same time, burnt Ballingarry and Bruree. The most remarkable object in the parish, are the ruins of the noble castle of Rathcannan, situated on a lofty eminence, which appears to have been formerly a strong fortification, and commands a fine prospect of the surrounding country. This castle, with a vast property around it, belonged to the an-

* On an old tombstone in this church-yard, are the words and figures, John, Thomas, and Edward Lacy, 1632. Near Athlacca, Lacy of Bruff, and Lacy of Ballingarry, who were brothers, once fought a desperate battle, in which Lacy of Ballingarry was killed, and his head cut off and carried away in triumph by his brother.

cient family of O'Casey.* At a little distance to the S. E. of Rathcannan is an insulated hill, called in Irish Cnoctuadh, from a battle said to have been fought there with battle-axes between the Danes and the Irish. The ascent to the hill appears to have been rendered extremely difficult on every side, and on the top are still to be seen the remains of fortifications. Adjoining the hill to the west is a deep morass, in which there has been found an enormous pair of moose-deer horns, now in the possession of Archdeacon Maunsell of Limerick. The high grounds about Rathcannan, which are some of the finest in Ireland, are entirely under pasture.

The parish of Manister, joining Athlacca on the north, is a vicarage consisting of 3602 acres, partly in the baronies of Coshma, Pobble Brien, and Small

* The Lord of Rathcannan Castle married in 1631, the daughter of Sir John Dowdall of Kilfenny in this county. Sir Hardress Waller married her sister. From the first marriage are descended the Earl of Limerick, Colonel Monsell of Tirvoe, and Counsellor Casey ; and from the latter, Mr. Waller of Castletown. A daughter of Sir Hardress Waller was first married to Sir Maurice Fenton, and after his death to Sir William Petty, by whom she had two sons, Charles, created Baron of Shelburn in Ireland, soon after his father's death ; Henry, who on his brother's death in 1696, succeeded to the title ; and a daughter Anne, who was married to the Earl of Kerry. Henry, Earl of Shelburn dying in 1752, his nephew, the Hon. John Fitzmaurice, succeeded to the estate, and was created in 1753 by privy seal, dated at Kingston, Earl of Shelburn. He was ancestor of the present Marquis of Lansdowne.

County. It possesses no church, glebe-house, or glebe. The tithes belong to Lord Southwell, except £14 a year, which is allowed to the vicar. In that part of the parish which lies in the barony of Pobble Brien, is situated the famous Abbey of Neany, erroneously called Mainister na Maig, or Magy; as it is distant two miles from that river, and built on the banks of the Commogue. It is one of the most remarkable monastic edifices in Munster, both for its structure and history. Its front to the river extends about 170 feet, at which side is the entrance by two beautiful arches of polished mountain grit, of a reddish colour: these arches are separated by a handsome square pillar of the same materials, and they curve off from about seven feet of its perpendicular height. The chancel is seventy-five feet in length: the eastern part being more elevated than the rest, is formed by one of the finest arches in Ireland, thirty feet in breadth: it is constructed of red grit, and its shafts rise from the foundation of the walls of the abbey, to an immense height. In the walls of the chancel on either hand, two other arches of the same description were formed, which are now nearly filled up; and at the east end were the high altar and three beautiful Gothic windows of polished red grit, rising from the floor to the roof. The nave has lateral aisles, separated from the chancel by a low Gothic arch: at the west end stood the tower, a noble square structure of great height, which has lately fallen. The whole of this majestic edifice

occupies more ground than all the buildings on the celebrated Rock of Cashel; and the view of its mouldering aisles, its lofty arches and ivy-covered walls, containing within them piles of human bones, and “graves that heave in many a mouldering heap,” is highly calculated to inspire the spectator with those feelings so beautifully described by Mr. Philips:—

“ Though want and wildness reign around,

“ Nor earth give soil, nor echo sound,

“ An awe upon the heart will steal,

“ And conscious nature’s instinct feel

“ ’Tis holy ground.*

* Mr. Archdall furnishes us with the following brief annals of this celebrated monastery:—

“ Monasternenagh, in the barony of Pobble Brien, was founded to the honour of the Virgin Mary, A. D. 1148, by O’Brien, King of Limerick, who furnished it with Monks of the Cistercian Order, from the Abbey of Mellifont, in the county of Louth. The cell of Feal was afterwards annexed to this house, A. D. 1174. Donatus Abbott of this house was a subscribing witness to the grant made by Dermot, King of Munster, to Gill Abbey, in Cork. 1304. On the 7th of March, in this year, Isaac, Abbot of this house, granted to John Bathe, the son of Simon, the whole grange of Grangenan, for the space and term of 30 years, paying annually thereout, forty cronnogs of bread-corn, twenty of peas and beans, and twenty of oats, all properly cleansed and winnowed: And also, that he should pay suit and service at their Court of Mage, twice in every year; and if the said John, his heirs, or assigns, should, at any time, be amerced in the said Court, the fine should not exceed six pence. 1307. On the 10th of July, in this year, Gerald, Earl of Desmond, together with Lord John Fitz-Nicholas, the Lord Thomas Fitz-John, and several of the nobility, were taken prisoners near this monastery,

South-east of the Abbey of Manister, is Rathmore Castle, which was taken by Sir George Carew, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In the parish is a small village with a good classical school. Near the abbey is Manister house, the residence of John Heffernan, Esq. and about three miles to the south,

where many other nobles were slain by O'Brien, and M'Conar, of Thomond. 1579. This year, Marshal Malby, at the head of 100 horse and 600 foot, defeated 2000 of the Irish : although they fought valiantly at first, yet were 260 of them slain ; among whom was Doctor Allen, the famous Legate from the See of Rome. The action happened near this monastery. At the general suppression, the Abbot of this house was found in possession of the site of the same, together with five ploughlands, one of them adjoining the site, and called the ploughland of the said abbey, and all the tithes, oblations, &c. of the said ploughlands, the entire of Nenagh, belonging to the said abbey, with the presentation of the aforesaid rectory, a mill-seat, and watercourse, and weirs for eels and pikes on the river Commogue. The abbey and its possessions were granted by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Henry Wallop, Knight, then treasurer of the army, together with many others in this country. These edifices were first robbed of every thing valuable, and then totally demolished, so that the poet justly observes—

“ Who sees those dismal heaps, but would demand,

“ What barbarous invader sacked the land ?”

COOPER'S HILL.

The Abbey of the Holy Cross in the county of Tipperary, of the Cistercian Order, was daughter to this abbey, as was also Chore abbey, near Middleton, in the county of Cork, built in 1180, the monks being furnished out of this house, for occupying those abbeys. A few years since some labourers, who were making a trench through one of the adjoining fields, found a vast quantity of human bones thrown together promiscuously, which probably were the bones of those slain in the battles above mentioned.

is Camas, the house and demesne of Henry Bevan, Esq.

This parish is very partially cultivated. The land south of the abbey is, for the most part corcass, and being overflown by the river Commogue for six months of the year, it is unfit for culture. The lands of Camas, Rathmore, and Knockfennell, which consist of very rich and deep soil, are in general used as pasture.

To the westward of Manister is Croom, a rectory and vicarage, containing 7000 acres, united from an extremely remote period to the vicarage of Adare. Croom, twelve miles S. W. of Limerick, is a thriving post town, situate on the Maig, over which there is a handsome bridge; it is adorned with a good church and steeple, and also with a fine Roman Catholic chapel in the form of a cross, and is remarkable for its castle, built by the O'Donovans of Kenry.*

* Of this ancient family we have the following account in Smyth's History of the County of Cork :—

“ This family came hither from a barony in the county of Limerick called Coshma, where they built the famous castle of Croom, which afterwards fell to the Kildare family, from which the motto *Crom a Boo*, still used by that noble house, was taken. In the month of June 1600, Carew, Lord President of Munster, being on his way to besiege Glyn castle, took the castle of Croom, then held by a garrison of Pierce Lacy, which, on sight of the English army, quitted the castle, when the President took possession of it, together with a great store of corn and provisions.” The Duke of Richmond, son of Charles II. lived in Croom castle for some time, having got a grant of it together with the lands adjoining. The Duchess wishing to return to England, the Duke sold the castle

Within the walls enclosing the castle, and directly over the Maig, is the fine residence of John Croker, Esq. which he has fitted up and furnished in the castellated style, with great taste and judgment. The gardens, shrubberies, and gravel walks are kept in the neatest order, and from the house is a very fine view up the river Maig, which winds along in a majestic stream, and of a handsome Chinese bridge, that conducts to Toureen, the residence of James Lyons, Esq. A mile farther up the river is Cherry Grove, the seat of Robert Harding, Esq. The house of Henry Lyons, Esq. at Croom, commands a fine view down the river to Cahirass, the ground sloping gradually on each side, and being thickly planted.

About a mile from Croom, situated on the Maig, is Cahirass house, with its finely-wooded park and plantations, belonging to David Roche, Esq. a de-

and lands to an ancestor of Edward Croker, Esq. of Ballyneguard, who had been his Grace's agent.

We should have stated under the head of Ballyneguard, that "Rochestown, Williamstown, Balinloughlin, the property of Burke, Lord Brittas, and Ballyneguard, the property of Theobald Burke, were granted to Dr. Carteret in 1663, for service money due to him; all which lands were purchased by Randal Clayton, for 478*l.*, who soon after sold them to John Croker, of Skule Castle, to whom there appeared due more than 3000*l.* on various accounts. The above John Croker was also appointed one of the Trustees for lands and houses near the town of Galway, granted to the 49 officers. In 1719 Cahircorney, Raleighstown and Ballingoola, were sold to John Croker, by Colonel Michael Synge, of Middlesex.

scendant of the house of Fermoy.* At Carraigeen, in this vicinity, are the ruins of a round tower, adjoining an old church, which has not been noticed by Ledwich in his catalogue : it is still fifty feet high, and is entirely solid for sixteen feet, where is placed an arched door-way composed of a reddish grit stone ; four small windows at different heights, face the four points of the compass : in the interior are three resting-places for the beams of the different floors.—

This tower is built on a solid rock ; from the foundation to the door is composed of very large stones, some of them measuring from four to five feet long, and of proportionable breadth and thickness ; and it is fifteen feet in diameter at the base. At about four yards distance on the south side is a church, fifty feet long by twenty-five broad, built with the same kind of stone, and from every appearance both seem to have been erected at the same time : the doors and windows of the church are also constructed of large square blocks of red grit. The entire was surrounded with a strong square wall, parts of which still remain. In the south part of this parish are the ruins of Dunkip,

* There was once a chapel of ease here belonging to the Carbery family, whose property it was. The chaplain falling desperately in love with the daughter of Lord Carbery, and being disappointed, hanged himself in the chapel, which soon afterwards went to decay. This unfortunate lover had composed a song beginning with “At the Court of Cahirass there lives a fair maiden ;” which is still recollected, and sung by the country people. Mr. Roche has built a fine flour mill here.

a house belonging to the Parker family ; near which is one of the highest Danish forts in the county ; and a mile to the west is Clorane, a fine house built by the late Henry Hunt, Esq. The ground here is a dead flat, overflown generally by the Commogue. Two miles south of Croom, Tullevin Castle is situated on an eminence, surrounded by land of the best quality, and fit for every purpose of husbandry : two miles west of the town is Dunaman Castle and old church ; in that part of the parish to the N.W. is Newborough, a well-improved residence of Christopher Adamson, Esq. ; and to the N.E. is Tory-hill, on which the Earls of Desmond and Kerry encamped in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and from which they were spectators of the famous battle fought near the Abbey of Manister-Nenay, between the Irish commanded by Sir James Fitzgerald, the Earl's brother, and the English forces under Malby. The south side of this hill is very steep and of savage appearance, covered with large loose rocks and brushwood : it was called Tory hill from the Irish secret-ing themselves in it in times of danger. Near it is a small lake of immense depth ; and in the neighbourhood is Gerane, a well-improved seat of John Crips, Esq. of Cahirnarry.

The small parishes of Athnit and Disert, adjoin that of Croom : they have no church nor glebe, nor is there occasion for them, as they do not contain a single Protestant family. The ruins of two old churches and a round tower near that of

Disert, are the only objects of interest to be found in these parishes. About three miles N. W. from Croom is Droichiod-tarsna, a rectory and vicarage, containing 300 acres, mostly under tillage ; it is one of the parishes which constitute the corps of the Prebend of St. Munchin's. A church has been lately built here, but there is no glebe-house.

Adare parish is partly in Coshma, and partly in the barony of Kenry ; it is valued at £5 5s. sterling, in the King's books, and is one of the parishes in the union of Croom ; it contains about 5300 acres of land, a great part of which is cultivated, as many Palatine families reside here, who are a very industrious, sober, well conducted people. Their houses and farms have every appearance of neatness and comfort ; and they have of late intermarried with the natives, who, since they have been enabled to take leases for lives, have acquired habits of industry, knowledge of cultivation, and proper implements of husbandry from the Palatines.

Adare is a very handsome post town, eight miles from Limerick. It is situated on the river Maig, over which there is a fine old bridge of fourteen arches : the river communicates with the Shannon, and is navigable for small boats. Adare is rich in monastic antiquities : one of its old abbeyes has been lately converted into one of the finest parish churches in Ireland, and another has become a Roman Catholic chapel of equal elegance. A house was founded here on the south side of the town, for

friars of the order of the Holy Trinity for the redemption of Christian captives, in the reign of King Edward I. by John, Earl of Kildare. Nov. 4th, in the 37th of Queen Elizabeth, this friary, together with the possessions of the Grey Friars, the Preaching, and the Augustine Friars of the same, the abbey of Monaster an Aonaig, and the nunnery of Saint Katharine, alias Moinistir na Gcailleach, were granted to Sir Henry Wallop, at the yearly rent of £26 17s. 8d. Irish money, he maintaining two able horses on the premises. Some large and very perfect ruins of this friary still remain: the steeple resembles a castle, and is supported by a plain arch with four diagonal ogives meeting in the centre, and stairs leading to the battlements; the nave and choir are small and plain, without any thing remarkable: in the rere are several other ruins. The entrance to the friary was by a low gate on the west side, which is still standing.

The Augustinian Friary, called also the Black Abbey, was founded on the south side of the river, by John, Earl of Kildare, son to Earl Thomas, who died in the year 1315: King Edward II. confirmed the grants made to it on the 13th of December, A. D. 1317. A great part of this friary still remains in good preservation: the steeple, similar to that of the Trinitarians, is supported on an arch; the choir is large, with stalls, &c.; and the nave answerable thereto, with a lateral aisle: on the south side to the north of the steeple, are some

cloisters, with Gothic windows, within which, on three sides of the square, are corridores, and on most of the windows are escutcheons, with the English and Saltire crosses generally ranged alternately: the workmanship is simple and elegant, the principal parts being of hewn limestone, which appears so fresh as to give it, on the whole, a modern, yet striking appearance. Adjoining the cloisters are several apartments which seem to be much more ancient than the other parts of the building.

The house of the Grey Friars (or Observantine Franciscans) was founded in the east part of the town in the year 1465, by Thomas, Earl of Kildare, and Joan, his wife, daughter of Thomas, Earl of Desmond. The church of the friary, built at the sole expense of the Earl and Countess, was consecrated on the 29th of September, 1464, when the noble founders presented it with two silver chalices and a bell, which cost £10. The Earl also made a grant of the ground whereon the friary was erected, with a garden, an orchard, and a certain large enclosure, together with eight messuages, seven acres of small measure, and convenient pasturage. Thomas, the Earl, dying in 1478, and his Countess in 1486, they were buried in the choir.

The Earl of Desmond had a strong castle in Adare, which very much incommoded the English settlers in those parts, and was frequently taken by them. "In 1579," says an old writer, "John of Desmond, with 450 men, horse and foot, besieged the town; so that the garrison dared not peep abroad

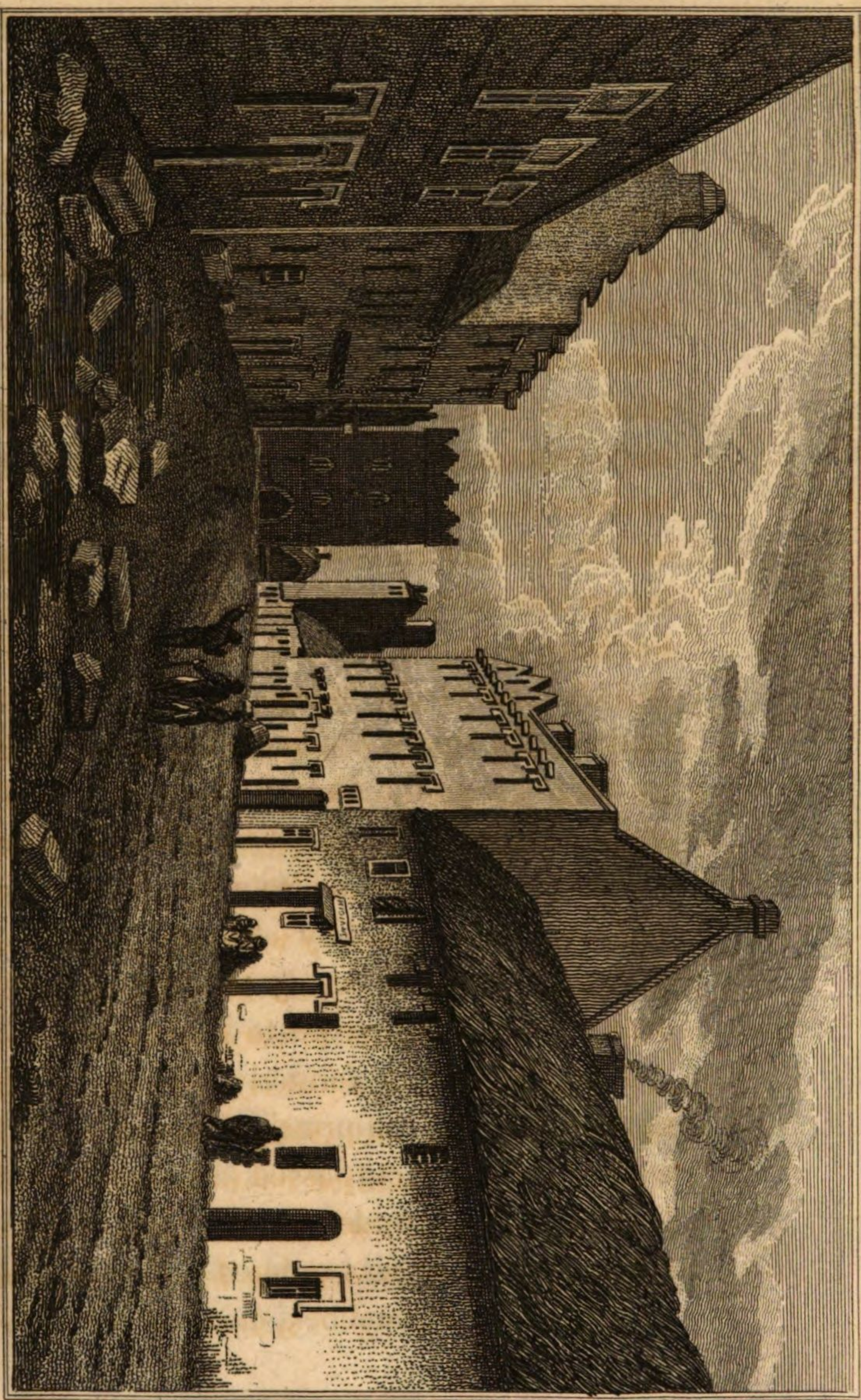
till their victuals failed them—and then necessity whetted their courage, and made their swords as sharp as their stomachs, so that Sir John was forced to retire. The English had but one small cot, which would hold about eight men, and by the help of it, 120 men of the garrison were wafted over the river into the Knight of Glenn's country, and being unexpected there, did great execution: however, they staid so long, that the Knight of Glenn and Sir John collected thirty horse and four hundred foot—some Irish and some Spaniards; and coming up with them, a sharp skirmish for eight hours ensued: the English made good their retreat into Adare, without any considerable loss, and killed about fifty of the enemy. Captain Carew commanded in this expedition." In 1581, Desmond and Lord Kerry put the garrison of Adare to the sword; but Colonel Zouch came from Cork into Clanmaurice, and having pursued and overtaken them near Glenflesk, he defeated them with great slaughter, and took considerable booty of cattle, money, and provisions.

Adare is now the property of the Earl of Dunraven, whose fine mansion and noble demesne augment, by contrast, the attractions of this celebrated place, where, amidst a highly variegated and picturesque display of wood and water, the ruins of ancient abbeyes and castles are seen nodding their venerable heads over the silent stream; while extensive vistas through aged trees and shaded walks, where many

a saint and many a hero trod, give a peculiar interest to the surrounding scenery.

Kilmallock is a rectory and vicarage in the diocese of Limerick, united at a period prior to any existing record to the rectories of Cloncagh, Clonakilty, Corcomohide, Crecoragh, Kilfergus, Killgobbin, Killmoylan, Killtearney and Morgans. The chapelry of Chapelminet, and half the chapelry of Chapelmartin, belong to the college of St. Mary in Limerick, which is valued in the King's books at £21 3s. 4d. sterling. The vicarage is valued in the King's books at 5s. sterling, and united in perpetuity, by charter, to the entire rectories of Athenassy, Killbreedy major, and the rectory and vicarage of Ballingaddy, belonging to the college of Kilmallock, which is valued in the King's books at £13 1s. sterling. The Dean and Chapter of St. Mary, Limerick, are the incumbents of this union (which contains about 8000 acres) by charter from the Crown, Ann. 1674. The duties are performed, as required by the said charter, by a resident curate, who is also a member of the chapter. The town is governed by a Sovereign and deputy, and has a free school for twenty children : until the Union, it returned two Burgesses to Parliament.

Kilmallock was formerly strongly fortified, and ranked amongst the principal towns of Ireland ; for we find by an Act passed in a Parliament held in Dublin in 1483, under Gerald, Earl of Kildare, that a penalty of £20 was ordered to be inflicted on any inhabitant of Kilmallock, and other towns of note,



Brocas Sculp.

KILMALLOCK

Engraved for Fitzgerald and M^cGregor's History of Limerick.

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who should refuse a certain coin of Richard III. then current; and also, that the burgesses should lose their franchises, until they made fine to the King for such contempt. In 1590, Edward VI. conferred a charter, and many privileges, on Kilmallock; and Queen Elizabeth granted another, which is dated April 24, 1584. This charter grants several tolls and customs—empowers the burgesses to elect a Sovereign—to hold Courts of Record—to issue actions for debts not exceeding £20—to levy money for keeping the fortifications in repair—to grant licenses for making spirituous liquors; orders that no burgess shall be impannelled at the assizes, except where the Crown is a party—the Sovereign and burgesses not to be obliged to take up arms; and on account of their good services in resisting that arch-traitor Garrett Fitz Garrett, Earl of Desmond, to enjoy all the liberties and free customs, murage, pontage, lastage, in as ample a manner as Kilkenny or Clonmel—grants a fair, to continue for five days, to commence on the Saturday before Whitsuntide—the burgesses to be free from all taxes, except assessed by Parliament.

In 1572, Sir John Perrott, Lord President of Munster, arrived in Kilmallock, and received the submission of James Fitzmaurice, of Desmond, in the church, who knelt down, and placed the point of the Lord President's sword next to his heart, in token that he received his life at the Queen's hands. In 1590, James Fitz Gerald, commonly called the

pretending Earl of Desmond, at the head of a formidable body of the Irish of Munster, besieged Kilmallock ; but Sir Thomas Norris, the Lord President, assisted by the Earl of Ormond, forced him to raise the siege. In the civil wars of 1642, the Irish, headed by the Lords Mountgarrett and Purcell, and Garret Barry, seized this and other towns in Munster ; but their progress was stopped by the forces under Lord Barrymore and Sir Hardress Waller. In May, 1643, Lord Inchiquin and Sir Charles Vavasor divided the King's troops : Inchiquin invested Kilmallock with an army of 700 men ; but Sir Charles being totally defeated, and taken prisoner, by the Irish under Lord Castlehaven, on the borders of the County of Limerick, this victory gave fresh hopes to the Supreme Council of the Irish nobility, gentry, and clergy, then sitting at Kilkenny. In 1645, they sat in Limerick, and requested the Earl of Castlehaven to take the command of the army, which he accepted ; and deposited his military magazines and provisions of every kind at Kilmallock. The place was dismantled by the soldiers of Cromwell, and afterwards, in 1690, by the Irish commanded by the Duke of Berwick.

An abbey was founded in this town, by St. Mochollog, who died between the years 639 and 656 : this is now the parish church, and is kept in good repair. The Friars of the order of St. Dominick seated themselves here, Anno Dom. 1291 ; and we are informed that the founder of this Friary was

Gilbert, the second son of John of Callan, Lord of Offaly : its ruins, which may still be seen, give evidence that it was once an elegant structure. In the 36th of Elizabeth, it was granted, with part of its possessions, to Nicholas Miagh, Sovereign, and the brethren and commonalty of the town, at the annual rent of 53s. 8d. Irish money. In this church, are the remains of a monument, erected to the Verdon family, one of whom was Representative in Parliament for this town in 1613. Another monument, of excellent workmanship, contains the following inscription :

“ D. Walterius Coppinger, eques auratus hoc funeris et amoris monumentum posuit, A. D. 1627 ; Domino Johanni Verduno ejusque relictæ D. Alsonæ Haly, conjugi suæ. Dom. Verdon Obiit Aug. 10, 1614 Ætatis suæ 63. D. Haly Obiit October 20, 1626. Ætatis Suæ, 60.

Surgite mortui, venite ad judicium.

“ Sir Walter Coppinger, Bart. erected this Monument in testimony of his affection to Mr. John Verdon and his widow, Mrs. Alice Haly, in the year 1627. Mr. Verdon died August 19, 1614, aged 63 ; Mrs. Haly died October 20, 1626.

“ Arise ye dead, and come to judgment.”

On a tomb of the Fitzgeralds, in the same church, is the following—

Non fugiam ! prius experiam, non mors mihi terror.

I will not fly—I'll fortune try—death's to me no terror.

In this church, is also a beautiful monument of white marble, belonging to the family of Lord

Blakeney, who was rendered famous by his defence of Minorca ; and in the church of St. Peter and Paul, is the following curious inscription to the memory of three relations, named Burgate, who, it appears fell fighting for their country.*

“ Tertia. Lux. Cæsos. Memorat. Septemb. In. Anno.
Quem. Legis, Heu. Nondum—Tres. Tenet. Urna.
Senes. Marte. Nepos.—Fratrisque. Ruunt. Tria. Pignora.
Justo.

Jus. Patriæ. Causam. Rexque. Fidesque.

Probant. Integer. Attritis. Reperitur.

Candor. In Extis. Virginis et Veri.

Purpura. Martyrii. Lillia. Purpureos.

Inter. Ludentia. Fluctus. Tres. Meruere.

Trium. Nomina. Marmor. Habe.

Fratres	}	George	}	Burgate.
		Edvard		
Nepos.....		Alexander		

Date 1642.

Reader, this year it grieves my heart to tell,
In battle three relations nobly fell ;
Fighting for King, Religion, Country, Laws ;
Angels and men approve the glorious cause !
Their mangled sides, exhibiting to view
The Virgin's white, and Martyr's purple hue !
Well may the herald's emblematic lore,
Their bright atchievements blazon o'er and o'er ;
With dew-dropt lilies in a purple stream,
Marble immortalize each hero's name.

Brothers	}	George	}	Burgate.
		Edward		
Nephew.....		Alexander		

* They must have been persons of some note, for Borlase relates, that on the 28th of February, the General exchanged with Patrick Purcell, Governor of Kilmallock, one Burgate, a Cork prisoner, for Lady Hume and her son, then detained in the town.

Fitzgerald, the White Knight, is buried in the Dominican Abbey, where is shewn a small hollow on his tomb, which is pretended to have been formed by a continual drop of rain, called in Irish "*Braon Sinsior*," that is, the hereditary drop, as a mark of displeasure from heaven, for his great cruelties to his Catholic countrymen.*

Kilmallock has, with great propriety, been denominated "the Balbec of Ireland." The ancient walls, which in many places still remain, appear to have formed an oblong square, with a castle at each angle; and the houses were built of hewn stone. The principal entrance to the town was by a lofty turreted gate-way, which led into a street uniformly built; once, no doubt, a scene of bustle and animation, but now exhibiting the stillness of a sacked and desolated city, with magnificent ruins of ecclesiastical, military, and civic edifices, scattered on every side, which remind the passenger of the grandeur and prosperity of their former owners. Of such a scene the following lines of Mr. Pope are peculiarly descriptive:—

"The levell'd town with weeds lies covered o'er,

"The hollow winds through naked temples roar,

* An anecdote is related of the White Knight, that having met a Priest near Kilmallock, he demanded of him with an oath, if he were a Catholic Priest or not? the other shrewdly made use of two negatives, swearing by his oath that he was *not no Priest!* to which Fitzgerald replied, laughing at his supposed ignorance, "*Indeed I see you are not*, and suffered him to depart.

" Round broken columns clasping ivy twined ;
 " O'er heaps of ruin stalks the stately hind.
 " The fox, obscene, to gaping tombs retires,
 " And savage howlings fill the sacred quires."

Beyond Kilmallock on the right, is Ash hill, with a fine shrubbery, and well improved demesne, the seat of Eyre Evans, Esq. grandson to Thomas Evans of Miltown Castle, county of Cork, who was brother to the first Lord Carbery.* Ballynegall, situated in the same vicinity, was once a town of some importance, and was built by the English. The family of Roche founded a monastery here in the 14th century ; and Queen Elizabeth in her 39th year granted the same (which in the patent is expressly called a Carmelite Friary) with half a carrucate of land belonging thereto, to the University of Dublin. Donogh O'Donegane was the last Prior of this house.

POBBLE BRIEN.

The barony of Pobul ni Bhrian, or Pobble Brien, is north east of Coshma : it contains three parishes entire, namely, Kilkeedy, Killaleathan, and Crecora, parts of Croom, Mungret, Knocknegaul, Kilpeacon, and Manister. This barony has derived its name from Brien Duff, son of Connor O'Brien, King of

* This place, with a very extensive estate around it, belonged to the late Chidley Coote, Esq. of Mountrath, father of Sir Charles Coote, to whom the late Earl of Mountrath bequeathed his entire property.

Thomond, or North Munster, in the year 1406, who settled in this district, and whose principal town and seat was Carrig O'Gconnuil (Carrigogunnel) Castle, magnificently situated on the summit of a lofty hill, which was formerly a place of great strength. In September 1691, it was taken and blown up by General Scravemore, by order of Ginkle, then besieging Limerick; and its ruins, which present a fine object to the surrounding country, are still sufficient to shew its former consequence. It was the seat of Donogh O'Brien in 1530: Daniel O'Brien, a lineal descendant of the family, was living at Glyn, in 1768.

Kilkeedy, four and a half miles from Limerick, is a rectory and vicarage, valued in the King's books at £2 1s. and containing 4644 acres: it possesses a handsome church, ornamented with a tower and spire, and an excellent glebe-house, all situated near Carrigogunnel Castle. In this parish is the village of Carrick a Quicy, where was formerly an house for Knights Templars. Tirvoe, the fine seat of Colonel William Thos. Monsell, nephew to the late Lord Viscount Pery, enjoys a noble view up the Shannon to Limerick. The house is spacious, and contains many beautiful apartments, in one of which is a fine library. The demesne is extensive and well planted; and the view of the ruins of Carrigogunnel Castle through a vista in front of the house, is truly grand. Lord Clarina has a handsome house and demesne at Elmpark. Besides the above, the principal resi-

dent gentry of the parish are, Cooper, of Cooper's hill; Tuthill, of Faha,* celebrated for its fine deer-park; Rose, of Ballyanrahan; Parsons, of Cragbeg; and Vokes, of Kilcoleman.

The road from Limerick to Rathkeale lies through the village of Patrick's Well. Over the well is a square stone, in which is a figure of our tutelar Saint, in alto relievo: a soldier pulled down this stone some time since, and broke it in two with a great rock; but it has been joined and erected again by the villagers. The greatest part of this parish consists of excellent land, particularly Newtown, Corcamore, and other townlands bordering on the Shannon; which are the richest corcass lands in Ireland, and yield generally from seven to eight tons of hay to the acre.

The parish of Killaleathan, containing 1125 acres, joins Kilkeedy on the south, and is a vicarage, valued in the King's books at 13s. 4d. Irish: it has no church, glebe, or glebe-house. The only objects of interest in this parish are Attyflin, the seat of John Westropp, Esq.; Fort Etna, that of Mr. Peacock; and the ruins of an old church at Kilonihan.

South-east of Killaleathan, is Crecoragh, a rectory and vicarage, valued in the King's books at £2 sterling: it possesses no church or glebe-house;

* George Tuthill, Esq. is nephew to the late Lord Massy, and grandson to George Tuthill, Esq, of Ballinlina, in this county, who was the great friend of Damer, called "the wealthy and the wise."

and the income is inadequate to the comfortable support of a resident incumbent. In this parish are situated Richmond Villa a neat house, built by the late Henry Westropp Esq. ; Jockey Hall, the seat of Major Tomkins ; Bettyville, a handsome thatched cottage, occupied by Captain John Franklin ; Dooneen, a good house, lately built by Villiers Peacock, Esq. ; and Green Mount, the very handsome and well-improved demesne of John Green, Esq.

Ballycahane parish lies south of Crecoragh ; it is a rectory entire, being the corps of the Prebend thereof, contains 974 acres, and is valued in the King's books at £2 1s. sterling, but has no church or glebe-house. In this parish is Maryville, a very handsome residence, with a well-enclosed demesne, built by the late William Finch, Esq. ; and in its vicinity are two fine Rathes, planted round the circumference with whitethorn trees. The parish is equally under pasture and tillage ; and it is well supplied with fuel from the bogs of Attyflin and Ballinvilla. This barony, with that of Kenry to the West, and the N. East part of Coshma, possesses the best improved land in the whole county ; and it is highly ornamented with the fine residences, thickly planted demesnes, and well-inclosed parks, of its numerous gentry.

KENRY.

This barony has that of Pobble Brien on the East, Lower Connello on the West, the Shannon on

the North, and the barony of Coshma on the South. It contains four parishes entire ; namely, Ardcanny, Kildimo, Kilcornan, and Iber Russ, with about 2000 acres of the parish of Adare.

Ardcanny, situated on the Shannon, is a rectory and vicarage, being the corps of the Prebend thereof, which is valued in the King's books at £2 sterling Irish : it contains 1764 acres, and possesses a handsome church and glebe-house. In this parish along the river Shannon, are several gentlemen's residences, which are well improved, particularly Carrtown, the seat of Mr. Baldwin ; Melon, that of Mr. Westropp ; Ballinacarrige or Rockfield, the house of Mr. Villiers Fitzgerald ; and Shannongrove, belonging to the Earl of Charleville.* This fine old seat is well wooded, and being immediately situated on the Shannon, commands a fine prospect of that noble river, and of the county of Clare. In the village of Shannongrove is a charter school for 100 children.

South East of Shannongrove is Palace Kenry, a large and handsome village, through which a road runs from Limerick to Castletown and Askeaton. Palace was formerly the inheritance of John, the sixth Earl of Kildare. This branch of the family was removed afterwards to Carrigoran in the county

* William Bury, Esq. of Shannongrove (the ancestor of Lord Charleville) was High Sheriff of this County in 1726 ; at which time he married Jane, daughter of Baron Moore, of Tullamore, in the King's County.

of Clare, of which the present General Augustine Fitzgerald of Carrigoran, is the representative.*

South-west of Ardcanny is Kildimo, an entire rectory, the vicarage being valued in the King's books at £0 16s. 8d. Irish: it contains 2969 acres, and is one of the parishes which constitute the Arch-deaconry of Limerick. Kildimo is a small village, to which a draw-bridge leads over the Maig from Court Ferry, and it has a small unornamented church, with a glebe-house. Between Court Ferry and Adare, up the river, is Curragh Bridge, the handsome residence of George Fosbery, Esq. On the right are situated the ruins of Cullum Castle, taken by Sir Hardress Waller, on his way from Castle-town to assist Ireton at the siege of Limerick. The castle was defended by Captain Thady Burke, and a garrison of fifty men; but after a few discharges of artillery, called sakers, Burke capitulated. The soldiers placed on the towers, and on the top of the castle, not knowing what was agreed on, and seeing

* Captain John Fitzgerald of this family, saved the life of King Charles II. at the battle of Naseby, in 1645. In this action Captain Fitzgerald was wounded; and so anxious was the King for his safety, that he took off his own sash, with which he bound his wounds, and afterwards rewarded him with a pension: the sash is still preserved in the family. Captain Fitzgerald had three sons who fought at the battle of Aughrim on the side of King James. Two of them, Edward and Charles, were afterwards killed at Lisniskeagh; and the surviving son, John, married the Hon. Miss Butler, daughter of the 3d Lord Viscount Ikerin.

a number of the English entering the gate, fired on them, killed two, and wounded Waller in the left arm ; but he, with uncommon generosity, restrained his men from revenging the death of their companions. Near Cullum Castle is Court, a very fine old place, which belonged to the late Sir Henry Hartstonge, Bart. : it is now the property of the Earl of Limerick. The ground between Court and the Shannon is low, and consists entirely of rich corcass. A little farther on to the right, are the remains of Bolane Castle, built by one of the Fitz Gerald's ; and about a mile to the north, situate in the low ground near the Shannon, is Bally Kullane, an old fortified building, nearly perfect, the entrance to which was formerly by a draw-bridge, the water of the Shannon often flowing round it whenever a strong wind blew from the west. Further on, is the finely wooded hill of Dromore : at the foot of this hill is a deep lake, covering about thirty acres, which is separated from another to the north, by a small bog. It is a curious remark, that the depth of this lake is nearly in proportion to the height of the adjoining hill ; and this is found to be the case with nearly all the lakes in this county, from which an hypothesis has been raised, that these hills had been thrown up by some convulsion of nature ; and that the hollows thus formed were filled up with water.

On the left of the road near Dromore, are the walls of a little church called in Irish Kile na Lutter : it is, perhaps, the smallest church in Ireland, being but

twelve feet by eight ; and it has but one small window at the east, and a low Gothic arch on the west. The country south of Kildimo to Ballyshea hill, has a picturesque appearance, from the inequality of the ground and its high state of cultivation ; but the land to the westward behind Ballynolan house, the seat of the Rev. Thomas Westropp, is flat and uninteresting.

West of Kildimo is Kilcornan, a rectory entire, valued in the King's books at £2 Irish : it contains about 4000 acres. The church is plain and unornamented, and the glebe is one of the finest in Munster. Near the church of Kilcornan, stands Castletown, the seat of John Waller, Esq. : the house is situated upon an eminence on the banks of the Shannon, in the midst of a noble demesne, well enclosed and wooded. The approach to this beautiful residence commands an extensive view both up and down the river, which winds through the demesne by luxuriant plantations of full-grown trees of various kinds, laid out with exquisite taste. The ground north of the house slopes gently towards the Shannon, which, together with the valley on the East, is shaded with trees of the richest foliage. But it is not to his demesne alone that the highly esteemed proprietor of Castletown turns his care and attention ; —his benevolent exertions have rendered his tenants the most comfortable, and his estates one of the best improved in the kingdom ; presenting the pleasing prospect of neat houses and well-cultivated farms,

properly divided by hedgerows of various kinds.— Mr. Waller is, indeed, the father and the friend of his numerous tenantry ; and he enjoys the heartfelt satisfaction of knowing, that there is not a poor person living on his property.*

Holly Park, the seat of Richard Taylor, Esq. is well situated, and surrounded by an extensive demesne. There is a fine lake near the house, which was formerly a fortified place; and hollies have here a most luxurious growth out of the rocks, which form some romantic and agreeable views. At a little distance to the west of Castletown, is Bushy Island, the residence of Darcy Evans, Esq. it is immediately on the Shannon, and the approach to the house is through the demesne and plantations of Castletown. West of Kilcornan is Beagh or Bay Castle situated on the Shannon, and about a mile to the south, Beagh Old Church, near which, also on the Shannon, is Ballysteen, a good house and well-planted demesne, belonging to Colonel Westropp.

* Mr. Waller is the lineal descendant of Sir Hardress Waller, who lived here in 1630 ; about which time he married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Dowdall, of Kilfenny, in this county. Castletown was besieged by the Irish commanded by General Purcell, in 1642, and obliged to surrender for want of water. Sir Hardress Waller being afterwards attainted of high treason, Charles II. granted to Sir Henry Ingoldsby, Knight of the Bath, and to Sir Richard Ingoldsby, Bart. 2000*l.* on his estate of Castletown.

LOWER CONNELLO.*

This barony joins that of Kenry on the west, terminating the county on that side: the northern part lies on the Shannon. It contains twenty-one parishes.

Clounshire is due south of Kilcornan, and between the parishes of Adare and Croagh. It is a rectory and vicarage, valued in the King's books at 10s. Irish. It contains 770 acres of very indifferent ground, and is one of the parishes which constitute the corps of the chancellorship of Limerick. In this parish is a fine house, lately built by Colonel Dickson; and near the road from Adare to Rathkeale, are the ruins of Garan Buidhe Castle, that is, the Castle of the Yellow Wood.

Croagh joins the parish of Clounshire on the west, and contains 3203 acres: it is a rectory and vicarage, forming the corps of the prebend thereof, which is valued in the King's books at £3 Irish. The church is in good repair, being part of the old church, which was very extensive, and is said to

* The baronies of Upper and Lower Connello, were formerly called Ibh Connuil Gabhra, i. e. the country of Connal Gabhra, an Irish Prince, who was the ancestor of the O'Connells of the counties of Limerick, Kerry, and Cork. But this country was more anciently called Tir Bhfear More, and also Tir Ar More. The first means the great grass country; and the second, the great corn country: the O'Connells appear to have been dispossessed of this territory some time before the 12th century; for, from the continuation of Tighearnagh's Annals at the year 1155, we find that O'Cinealy and O'Culeain were then the two Kings of Ibh Connuil Gabhra, and that they killed each other in a rencounter on a day of battle.

have been at one time collegiate. Croagh, now reduced to a miserable village, was formerly a corporation town. Lieutenant General Patrick Purcell, who was put to death by Ireton, after the surrender of Limerick, had a large estate here, which was then forfeited, and afterwards became the property of Captain Walcott : the family mansion was near the church, but it is now levelled with the ground. In this parish are situated an old mansion belonging to the ancient family of Aylmer ; and Amigan castle, in a good state of preservation. Near the village are Smythfield, belonging to Richard Smyth, Esq. Ballinvirigh, the old residence of Mr. Fitzgerald, and Ballylinn, the seat of William Smyth, Esq.

The country from Adare to Croagh, and thence to Beechmount, within a mile of Rathkeale, is very uninteresting, being low, bleak, and wet, from Ballyshea hills on the north, to Knoc Firine on the south : the greater part of this flat is pasture. They raise some good crops of wheat in a very dry season about the village, the mode of cultivation being potatoes and wheat alternately. Fairs are held at Croagh on the 1st of March, 1st of May, 3d of August, and 1st of November.

Rathkeale, west of Croagh, is an entire rectory, valued in the King's books at £2 Irish, and united at a period prior to any existing records to the rectories and vicarages of Cloonagh, Clounshire, and Kilscanlan, being the corps of the chancellorship of

Limerick, which is valued in the King's books at £12 Irish ; and with the chancellorship is holden, by episcopal union, with the entire rectory of Dundonnell. The parishes in this union are all contiguous, and contain 8000 acres. There is a large church at Rathkeale in good repair, and a very handsome glebe-house and suitable offices, about a mile distant. This was formerly a corporation town of considerable consequence ; for, in 1654, when, by an Act of Cromwell, the Commons of Ireland were limited to thirty, the counties of Limerick, Clare and Kerry had but one Representative, who was elected at Rathkeale : it had belonged to the Earls of Desmond, whose fortunes it shared, as will appear in the historical part of this work. It is situated on the east bank of the river Deel, and is still the best town in the county ; being a mile in length, and containing many good houses. Over the river is an excellent bridge, and on an eminence upon the western bank, is a fine house and demesne, where Lord Southwell formerly resided ; but it is now much neglected.* Many Palatines were settled on his

* Lord Southwell is descended from Sir Thomas Southwell, Knt. of Court Matterass, Castle Matterass, and Clay Kattered, in the county of Limerick ; at which last place he lived in the Rebellion of 1641. His father's town of Court Matterass, to the number of fifteen dwelling houses, was burned on the night of St. Patrick's day, by Maurice Herbert of Rathkeale, the elder. In 1654, he was Sheriff of the Counties of Limerick, Kerry, and Clare. Charles II. for his services, created him a Baronet, by privy seal, dated at Whitehall, 10th of

Lordship's estates, whose industrious habits have greatly tended to improve the town and its vicinity. Four annual fairs are held in Rathkeale, chiefly for the sale of cattle : it is also a post and market town.

A Priory, under the invocation of the Virgin Mary, was founded here for Augustine canons of the Order of Aroacia, about the year 1289. Eleanor Purcell granted to this Priory the tenth loaf of every baking, the tenth flaggon of every brewing, the tenth pork, and tenth mutton, and a considerable portion of every ox or cow killed in her manor of Mayen, to the due performance of which she bound herself and her heirs for ever. Hugh, her son and heir, was sued by the Prior for the non-performance of this grant, who answered, that his mother made the said grant to the Prior, after the settlement she had made upon him of the manor. The Prior rejoined, that after the death of Eleanora, John, then Prior of this house, was put in possession of said charity by the said Hugh, who ratified his mother's deed. Hugh then agreed to grant yearly to the Prior, as a compensation, two cronnoys (baskets) of

March, 1661 ; to which was added a grant of land under the Act of Settlement. He lies buried at Rathkeale, under a marble monument, with this inscription :—" Sir Thomas Southwell, of Barham Hall, in the county of Suffolk, in England, erected this monument for his family." His grandson, Sir Thomas, who succeeded him, was created Lord Southwell, of Castle Matterass, in the county of Limerick, on the 4th of September, 1717.

bread corn, and three cronnogs of oats, on the feast of Saint Michael, and four porks on the feast of St. Martin, for ever: the Prior then gave up the residue of his demand.

A mile east of Rathkeale, is Beechmount, the seat of Thomas Lloyd, Esq. The inequality of the ground, the vast plantations, and a fine piece of water render this demesne one of the most magnificent in the county. About two miles to the north west are the fine ruins of Liosnacoille Castle, built by the Mac Sheehys, who were brought into the county by James Fitz Gerald, seventh Earl of Desmond in the year 1420: and about two miles to the south, is Ballyalanan Castle, situated on the east bank of the river Deel, built by the O'Hallinan's. In the year 1600, Dermot O'Connor having, in concert with Sir George Carew, treacherously seized on James Fitz Gerald, the pretending Earl of Desmond, and having conveyed him, together with Thomas Oge, of Kerry, and two brothers of the Sheehys, prisoners to Castleishen, took Ballyalanan Castle from Rory Mac Sheehy, father of the two brothers abovementioned, and there settled himself: in this castle Dermot was besieged a few days after and forced to surrender on conditions. At a short distance north of Rathkeale, is Stoneville, the handsome residence of James Massy, Esq. and also Altavilla, the beautiful seat of John Bateman, Esq.

Dundonnell is an entire rectory, valued in the King's books at 10s. Irish, and episcopally united to

the corps of the chancellorship of Limerick: it is two miles N.W. of Rathkeale, and contains 568 acres. In this parish is Riddlestown, the old family mansion of Gerald Blennerhasset, Esq.* Three miles N. N. W. from Rathkeale is Nantenan, an entire rectory, united from a remote period to the rectories and vicarages of Kilfenny, Killinelly, and Loughill, the entire rectory of Crewmally, the rectories of Dromdeely, Knocknegall, and Shannagolden, and the vicarage of Morgans, being the corps of the Precentorship of Limerick, which is valued in the King's books at £8 Irish; and the union contains about 8000 acres. There is a church in good repair at Nantenan, and also a new glebe-house; and in the parish is the fine house and demesne of Mr. Royse. In the parish of Dromdeely is an old castle of that name; also, Court Browne Castle, near the seat of Mr. Browne, immediately on the Shannon. In the adjoining parish of Morgans stands Mount-Pleasant house, and near it the fine ruins of an old church called Teampolmuiregodann. West of Morgans is Robertstown, a rectory and vicarage, united with Dunmoylan, which is contiguous; and both contain 2500 acres. Lismakeery,

* Robert Blennerhasset was the first of the name who came into Ireland from Cumberland, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth: he married Elizabeth, daughter of Captain Jenkins Conway, from which marriage all the families of this name in the counties of Kerry and Limerick, are descended. Conway was an undertaker in the same reign, and had a grant of 5260 acres, called Killorglin, in the county of Kerry.

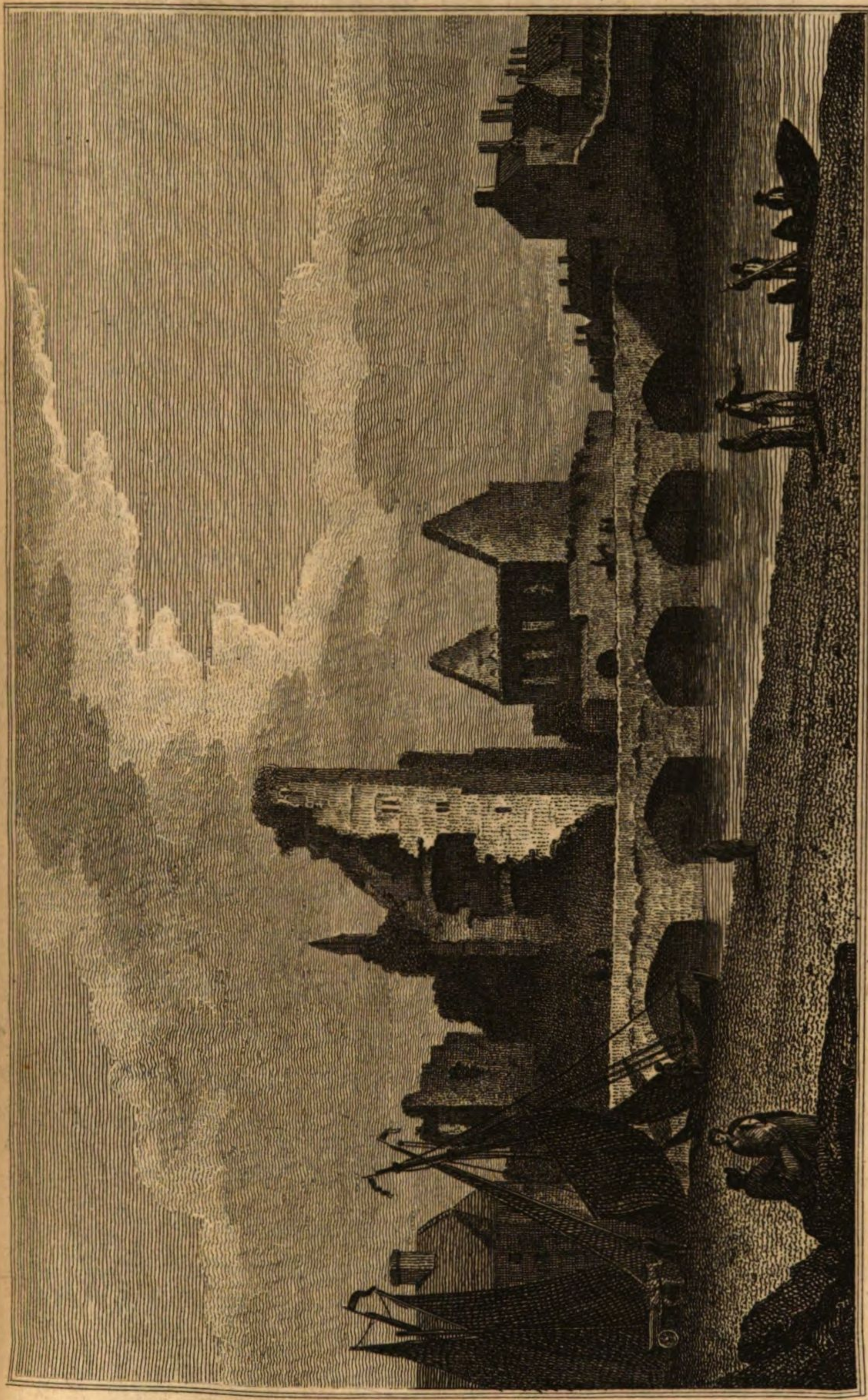
joining Dromdeely on the south, is an entire rectory, containing 2000 acres. These parishes possess few objects of interest except the ruins of old churches. The country is, for the most part, very light and craggy, bare of trees, and unfit for tillage, save some scattered spots that produce light crops of corn ; and the inhabitants are extremely wretched.

The parish of Cappa is situated to the north of Rathkeale : near the village is a handsome house and improvements, belonging to Robert Peppard, Esq. At some distance to the southward is Cappa Castle, once a noble structure ; half of which only now remains to shew its former grandeur : it is at least 100 feet high, including the mound on which it is built ; the coigne stones are all square and polished ; the windows are at various heights, according to the different loftings, being formed of carved stone, and arched. The castle is surrounded by an embattled wall, enclosing an area of thirty-five yards by twenty-four : it was built, according to tradition, by the Fitz Gerald, of which family there were two brothers, one of whom lived in Cappa Castle, and the other in a castle near Hollypark, north of it, to whom also belonged that of Cappa. His wife wishing to live at Cappa, gave orders to have it prepared for her residence ; but the brother, then living in it, exasperated at the idea of being dispossessed, blew it up. The land in the parish of Cappa is light and dry, full of grey rocky hills ; and in many parts it is well cultivated.

On the road from Cappa to Askeaton is situated a beautiful glen, extending from the former place to Castle Hewetson, or Bally England, the seat of John Hewetson, Esq. It is formed by rocky hills of different heights, which, together with those that back them, afford a very romantic and wild appearance, having no tree or shrub of any kind : a stream runs through this valley and turns a mill at Ahevilla, near Castle Hewetson : there are some fine plantations around the house ; but from this place to the Shannon, the country appears uniform and uninteresting for about three miles.

Askeaton, lying west of Cappa, and fourteen miles from Limerick, is a vicarage, valued in the King's books at 10s. sterling, having been always holden with the entire rectory of Lismakeery, but considered only as episcopally united : it possesses a church in good repair, and the union contains 4235 acres.—Askeaton was formerly a large walled town, and before the Union returned two members to Parliament; but it can now be only considered a village: the Deel, over which is an ancient bridge, runs through it, and discharges itself at about two miles westward into the Shannon. Fairs are holden here on the 30th of July, and 9th of October.

An extensive monastery was founded here by James Fitzgerald, the 7th Earl of Desmond, in the year 1389, according to Ware ; but according to Wadding, in 1420. It ranked amongst the finest ecclesiastical structures in Ireland ; and it was of



Engraved by H Brocas.

ASKEATON,

Engraved for FitzGerald and M^cGregor's History of Limerick.

Published by Geo. M^cKern, Limerick.

such importance, that a provincial chapter of the Order of Franciscans was held there in the year 1564. The friars were expelled this house by the English ; and some of them were put to death by the soldiers. Of this fine building the cloisters are still in perfect repair, and are of very curious workmanship : they are composed of a kind of dark marble brought from Cannon island, in the river Shannon. In the abbey are many ancient monuments, but the inscriptions on most of them are nearly obliterated by time : a curiously carved stone is placed over the remains of an old man, said to have been the workmanship of his son, who could neither read nor write, and had no other assistance than a model drawn on a slate. A pilgrim who lived in this abbey for some time, lies buried here under a flag, with the following plain inscription :—“ Beneath lies the pilgrim’s body, who died January 17th, 1784.”— Huge fragments of its once magnificent tower lie scattered around this ancient pile.

The Castle of Askeaton exhibits at this day a splendid ruin. It was built by Garret Fitz Gerald, the seventh Earl of Desmond,* on a solid rock of great height and extent, and was entirely surrounded with a strong and lofty wall, which was encompassed by the river Deel, the entrance being by a

* Grose calls it erroneously Rockbarton Castle : he says, “ It is romantically situated, and its ruins present a very picturesque appearance : it is said to have been built by one of the family of O’Grady. It was garrisoned by the Irish in 1649, but the year after was taken and demolished by Col. Axtell, who was then governor of Kilkenny.

draw-bridge. The part of the castle which is still preserved, is 90 feet high, and in it is shewn Desmond's gaol, a small arched room at the west, to which the ascent is by many steps: the old oak door still remains, entirely studded with broad-headed nails. At a short distance was Desmond's banquetting hall, the walls of which still continue in great preservation; the room is seventy-two feet long, and thirty in breadth: on each side were five large Gothic windows; and beneath the hall, are vaults of great extent. On the 14th of October, 1558, James Fitz Gerald, the fifteenth Earl of Desmond, and high-treasurer of Ireland, died at his castle of Askeaton: he was the father of the unfortunate Garret Fitz Gerald, Earl of Desmond, who forfeited his life and property for his rebellion in the reign of Elizabeth. In 1573, he was committed to the custody of the Mayor of Dublin: but, having obtained leave to go hunting, he and his brother made their escape to the castle of Askeaton. On the 18th of January, 1580, the Lord Justice, Sir William Pelham, arrived in Limerick, where he confined the Bishop, William Casey, and the chancellor of the diocese, on suspicion of holding a treasonable correspondence with the Earl of Desmond. On the 3d of April, in the same year, Sir George Carew marched to attack the castle of Askeaton, but the garrison retired in the night, leaving a train of gunpowder, which blew up a part of the fortress: next day it was possessed by the English, and Desmond had not then a castle left in

Munster. In 1642, Lord Broghill sent two hundred men to Askeaton, which prevented the town from revolting; and the castle has since fallen to decay.

From Askeaton to Shanagolden, for about five miles, the country appears, (except Ballyclogh, the seat of Mr. Copley, and the house of Carrol Nash, Esq. which have some trees around them,) one of the bleakest in Ireland, being almost destitute of every kind of verdure. It is covered with craggy rocks as far as the eye can reach; but the few scattered inhabitants endeavour to grow a little corn and potatoes in every spot which is capable of cultivation. Within a mile of Shanagolden are the fine ruins of an abbey, called in Irish, Mainistir na Gillagh, not noticed by Ware, Wadding, Allemand, or Archdall; and near it are the remains of stone fortifications. Adjoining the abbey is the house of Mr. Morgan, with some plantations.

Shanagolden is a rectory and vicarage, constituting part of the corps of the precentorship of Limerick: the vicarage is valued in the King's books at 13s. 4d. Irish, and it possesses a handsome church and tower. Shanagolden is a large village, consisting of thatched houses, the ground around it is well cultivated, and the inhabitants seem contented and comfortable. Fairs are holden on the Wednesday after Trinity Sunday, and the 4th of September. The clergyman resides in an handsome house near the town, around which there are some new plantations. About a mile south of Shanagolden is Shanet Castle, which

belonged to the Earl of Desmond, and from which he took his war-cry, as the Fitzgeralds of Leinster took their's from the castle of Croom.* The approach to Shanet Castle is up a steep hill until you meet an immense rampart with a deep fosse, six hundred feet in circumference : within this entrenchment is a lofty mound in form of a truncated cone, round the periphery of which runs a wall twenty feet high and six feet thick. This wall encloses an area of one hundred and eighty feet in circumference, in the centre of which is the castle, apparently a polygon on the outside, but within it is perfectly circular, and is sixty two feet in circumference : its walls, which are embattled, are forty feet high and ten feet thick, having as many port and loop-holes as there are angles. This must have been one of the strongest places in Munster from its situation ; the approach being through bogs, mountains, and rocky hills. From

* In the tenth year of Henry VII. an Act was passed prohibiting the use of the words *Shanet-abo*, *Crom-abo*, *Butler-abo*, &c. the war-cry of the followers of the Irish Chieftains. There are various meanings given for the word *abo*. The Irish at this day, when they ask who is *conquering*? say, *cra tha ag buadh*? (pronounced *ke haw ag boo*;) and the women of the labouring classes, when they call the people home from the fields, cry aloud *Bo-o-o-o*. It may have been derived from *Bo*, a fierce Gothic Captain, son of Odin, whose name was used by his soldiers when they wished to frighten or surprise their enemies; and at this day when the Irish threaten or defy each other, they cry out *a bo bo*: or when they wish to frighten their children, they cry out *buille bo*, that is, *fierce* or *mad Bo*.

its walls there is a fine view, up the Shannon, of the counties of Clare and Limerick, and as far as the county of Tipperary on the east : to the west are continued hills to Abbeyfeale ; and on the south a chain of hills, consisting, some of good ground, and some covered with heath, runs from Newcastle to this place, and on to Knock Patrick, near the Shannon.

Between the hill and Shanagolden, in the valley, stood Lower Shanet Castle. A legend informs us, that Mac Sheehy, the last proprietor of this fortress, was deprived of it by a stratagem, contrived by a daughter of the Earl of Desmond, who being on her way from the county of Kerry to one of her father's castles in the county of Limerick, was hospitably entertained by Mac Sheehy. Admiring the situation, she requested her host to give her as much ground as she could cover with an ox-hide ; and she then dealt with Mac Sheehy as Dido did with Iarbas ; for, cutting the ox-hide into small thongs, she took in the castle, which he was obliged to give up, her father's rank and power rendering any attempt at resistance hopeless. At a little distance south of the castle is a very extensive fort, surrounded with deep fosses and high embankments : on the top of this fort two high ridges cross each other at right angles, and meet the circumference, dividing it into four equal segments. The entrance was from the east, by which the Irish forts are distinguished from those of the Danes.

About a mile north of Shanagolden is Knock-

Patrick, said to be the highest mountain in this county, with respect to which Camden cites the following lines of *Necam* :—

“*Fluminibus magnis lætatur Hibernia sineus*

“*Inter Conantiam Momoniamque fluit ;*

“*Transit per muros Limerici Knock Patrick illum,*

“*Oceani clausum sub ditione videt.*”

On the top of Knock Patrick are the walls of an old church in good preservation ; the entrance into which is by a low Gothic arch on the West. This church is held in great veneration, as it is supposed to have been consecrated by St. Patrick, whose chair is shewn here, composed of five stones. At a little distance from the church is a well dedicated to the Saint, where the country people say he left a golden cup, which remained there until within these last fifty years, and that it is now in the possession of some family in that country : they also relate that a Druid Priest, whilst helping St. Patrick with water from the well, mixed some poison with it, which was discovered to the Saint by three drops falling through the cup into the well, by which the latter was discoloured. Within the walls of the church are two handsome monuments belonging to the Burke and Griffin families. From the summit of this wild and lofty solitude the surrounding country presents a grand and extensive prospect, which is increased to sublimity by an unlimited view of the Shannon, pursuing its majestic course to the sea through numerous

islands; amongst which that of Inniscattery, with its noble ruins, forms a prominent object.*

Knock Patrick terminates at the road that leads from Limerick to Glin and Tarbert by the Shannon, where, with the hills of Cruachain and Corgriff, it forms a beautiful valley called Ballynacraggy. At Corgriff is the house of Gerald Griffin, Esq. and near it stands on an eminence well planted and commanding a fine view of the Shannon, the very handsome glebe-house of the vicar of Shana-golden. The road that leads along by Foynes island has been made with immense labour and expense, through the lofty cliffs that hang over the river; and it is considered one of the finest in Ireland: from it the traveller has a noble view of the water dashing against the cliffs on his right, whilst the lofty eminences on his left are covered with purple flowering heath to the very summit. The Shannon at Foynes island is nearly three miles over; and on the county of Clare side are some beautiful residences, particularly Cahircon, the seat of Bindon Scott, Esq.

About two miles from Foynes island is Cappa, or Mount Trenchard, the house of Stephen Rice, Esq. boldly situated on the Shannon, surrounded by highly-planted parks, which slope down to the river. Mount Trenchard is in the parish of Loughill,

* We shall take particular notice of the various objects of curiosity and interest in the Shannon, in our description of the City of Limerick.

a rectory and vicarage, the latter being valued in the King's books at 10s. sterling : it constitutes part of the corps of the precentorship of Limerick, possesses a very handsome church and steeple, and contains about 210 acres. Joining Loughill on the west is the parish of Kilfergus or Glin, a rectory and vicarage ; the rectory constituting part of the union of Kilmallock : the vicarage is valued in the King's books at 10s. and has a handsome church, glebe-house, and glebe ; but the benefice is too small to afford the means of comfort to a resident incumbent. In this parish is the very neat village of Glin, situated on the strand, formed by the Shannon : if it had a good quay, it is well adapted for trade, there being anchorage near it for the largest vessels : it possesses some manufactures of linen and cotton cheques ; and great quantities of butter and corn are sent to Limerick and Cork. The Shannon is here three miles in breadth ; and the view from Glin is very fine, extending fourteen miles towards the mouth of the river, taking in the islands of Tarbert and Scatterry, and five miles up the river, including Foynes Island. The Knight of Glin resides in a noble mansion built by his father ; and he appears anxious, in every respect, to promote the happiness of his tenantry, who are, in consequence, generally comfortable and contented. Lancelot Kiggell, Esq. has lately built a beautiful cottage adjoining a fine old wood near Glin, which is seen to great advantage from the water.

The Knight of Glin and his son Thomas were both attainted, and the latter suffered death in the 11th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, for having supported their relative, the Earl of Desmond: their estates were consequently forfeited; but, by good management, the greater part was preserved to the family. The son afterwards took an active part with the Sugane or pretending Earl of Desmond; for which his Castle of Glin was besieged and taken on the 9th of July, 1600, after a siege of two days, by the English commanded by Sir George Carew, President of Munster, and the Earl of Thomond: some of the garrison were put to the sword, while others leaped off the battlements into the Shannon, and were drowned.

Kilmoylan, west of Shanagolden, is a rectory and vicarage, the latter being valued in the King's books at 7s. 6d. sterling, and is held by faculty, with the rectory and vicarage of Tankardstown: it contains 300 acres, but possesses no church or glebe house. Kilcoleman parish is south of that of Shanagolden, and contains about 500 acres: it is a rectory and vicarage, the latter being valued in the King's books at 7s. 6d. sterling, but without a church or glebe house. Rathronan is a rectory and vicarage, containing 2300 acres, valued in the King's books at 10s. sterling, with a church but no glebe-house. In this parish are the villages of Athea and Templelea, with Cahirmoyle, the handsome seat of the late Wm. Smyth, Esq. Five miles north of

Rathkeale is the parish of Ardagh, an entire rectory, being one of the parishes which constitute the arch-deaconry of Limerick, and containing 2200 acres. Fairs are holden at the village of Ardagh on the 11th of May, 14th of August, and 21st of November. In the east of this parish are situated Glenville, belonging to William Massy, Esq.; Elm, the seat of Jonas Studdert, Esq. and Kilscannell, the house of Mr. Condon. The land in this vicinity is some of the best in the county, and it is beautifully planted. A chain of mountains runs from the Shannon southward to the county of Cork, under different denominations, which are mostly covered with heath and bog.

Kilscannell is a rectory and vicarage, the latter valued in the King's books at 13s. 4d. Irish, and it is one of the parishes which constitute the chancellorship of Limerick: it contains about 1800 acres of excellent land, mostly pasture; of which the entire of the country from Rathkeale to Newcastle, in Upper Connello, a distance of six miles, consists. The parish adjoins Kilbroderan, which is a rectory and vicarage, containing 1400 acres, without a church or glebe-house. The country from Rathkeale westward to the Shannon has a wild and romantic appearance, because of the crags, glens, bogs and mountains with which it abounds.

UPPER CONNELLO.

This is the most southern barony of the county, and contains twelve parishes.

Bruree, anciently called Brug na Riogh, or the Seat of the Kings, is a rectory and vicarage, the rectory being one of the parishes which constitute the deanery of Limerick: the vicarage is valued in the King's books at 13s. 4d. Irish, and the parish contains 5000 acres, mostly rich pasture: a handsome church and glebe-house have been lately built here, at a short distance from the site of the old church, near the river Maig, over which there is a good bridge. Bruree, now reduced to a village, is remarkable for the half-yearly sessions which were held there by the Irish bards, and which, according to O'Halloran, were continued down to 1746. Above the bridge is the well-improved residence of the Langton family; and below it, immediately over the river, a very strong and lofty Rath, surrounded with a deep fosse, outside of which are three others of smaller dimensions. On an eminence in the vicinity is a large mound in the shape of an inverted basin, from which there is said to be a subterraneous passage to the forts. A little farther down the river are the ruins of a curious fortress, consisting of three strong castles, one of which is entirely dilapidated; these are surrounded with a very lofty wall, with ramparts and battlements constructed of large blocks of grit, with which all the castles and old churches on each side of the Maig from this place to the Shannon, have been constructed. The wall is more than 120 yards in circumference; one of the castles is in high preservation, and

in it are shewn two strong cells, which, according to tradition, were used as prisons by O'Donovan, prince of Kenry, whose residence this is said to have been :*

* Doctor O'Halloran relates, "That in the year 965, Mahon, King of Thomond or North Munster, who was brother to the celebrated Brian Boiromhe, agreed, at the interposition of the Clergy, to meet Maolmuadh, his rival for the crown of Munster, with a few friends on each side, in order to settle their differences amicably : the house of O'Donovan near Bruree, was appointed for the conference, and thither Mahon repaired with only twelve noblemen and their attendants. Maolmuadh, who had previously prevailed on O'Donovan to betray his Prince, came to the place with a strong body of horse, and carried off the gallant Mahon to the county of Cork, where he was basely murdered at Leachd Mhathuin, near Macroom. After the completion of this act of treachery, Maolmuadh was proclaimed King of Munster ; but Brian avenged the murder of his brother, by killing O'Donovan in a pitched battle shortly after, and totally routing his forces, among whom were 1500 heavy armed Danes, commanded by their General Alvalus. In 967, Maolmuadh was slain in a fierce engagement at Bealach Lachta, by Murrough, then a young man, who thus secured the crown of the two Munsters to his father, the valiant Brian.

Our Annalists inform us, that at this period the Kings of Munster gave annual presents to their territorial chiefs, who, in return, were bound to furnish their quotas of men and horses when called for. Thus O'Donovan, the chief of Kenry, in the county of Limerick, claimed seven slaves, seven freemen, seven swords, and seven cups. O'Ryan, chief of Owney, six shields, six swords richly mounted, six horses with gold bits and furniture. Mac Eneiry and O'Sheehan, chiefs of Conal Gabhra or Upper Connello, ten swords, ten shields, ten horses, ten cups, and the honour of sitting at the King's table. O'Collins and O'Kinnealy, chiefs of Lower Connello, the same. O'Kerwick, chief of Aine Cleach, eight swords, eight horses, eight cups, two suits of armour, and two cloaks. By the aid of these Princes, the King of Munster was always enabled to

but it is more probable that this fortress was built by a branch of the house of Lacy, who possessed an immense territory around Bruree; and that O'Donovan lived in the great Dun or Rath before-mentioned, surrounded by his followers in the smaller ones.

The river Maig meanders here through a beautiful valley, whose sides, consisting of rich meadow, slope gently to its waters. At a little distance below Bruree, the river passes under Howardstown-bridge, near which is an old church, the burying place of the Harding family; from whence it pursues its course by Cooleen, a neat residence of Joseph Mason, Esq. where it forms a conflux with the Dawn: near this is Harding-grove, the very handsome seat of Henry Harding, Esq. From hence it flows through Gleann Magha or the Glen of the Maig, to Belview, the seat of Massy Yielding, Esq. In the west of the parish is the village of Garryfine, Ballytiege, the seat of William Nash, Esq. and Rockhill, that of Mr. Cushin.

Adjoining Bruree is the parish of Castletown Conniers, formerly called Castletown Mac Eneiry.

take the field on the shortest notice, at the head of 30,000 horse and foot.

A legend relates, that a daughter of O'Donovan, standing one day on the top of the castle near Bruree, with two officers of her father's household, with whom she was, for some cause, highly offended, pushed them off into the river, by which one of them was killed, but the other escaped. The people in the neighbourhood pretend to shew a hollow in a stone, which was made by the unfortunate man, having struck against it with his knee.

Here are the remains of a very large monastery and other ancient buildings, "which sufficiently evince," says Archdall, "the purity, dignity, and splendour of the ancient family of Mac Eneiry," who were said to have been the direct chiefs of the Dalcassian race, being descended from the eldest son of Mahon King of Munster: the Mac Eneirys were dispossessed of their large estates in consequence of their attachment to James II. In the west of this parish is Kilmeedy, a vicarage belonging to the vicars choral of Limerick. It contains a village of thatched houses where four roads meet, with a small unornamented church. Bordering on the county of Cork are Drew's Court, an old family residence of Francis Drew, Esq.; Derawlin, that of Mr. Harding; Cappanhane and Rossmore, the seats of Mr. Mason and Mr. Shelton. This parish contains more than 1000 acres of land, but two-thirds of it is a dreary waste.

Newcastle is a rectory and vicarage, valued in the King's books at £1 Irish money, having been always holden with the rectory and vicarage of Monegea, to which it is episcopally united; and this union contains 10,000 acres. Newcastle is a good market town, 114 Irish miles south west from Dublin; it was not long since the direct road between Kerry and Limerick, and many of the inhabitants were considered wealthy and hospitable. The name of the place, according to Archdall, was derived from the Knights Templars having erected a castle here, ad-

joining which a walled town insensibly sprung up, and at length became a corporation ; but in process of time it fell to decay. Tradition reports, that the Knights used some barbarous customs, which so disgusted the Irish, that they put several of them to death ; and the place is still shewn where their remains are said to have been interred.* After the suppression of this order the Fitzgeralds took possession of the castle, and of an extensive tract of country around it, all of which were granted in the year 1591, on Desmond's forfeiture, to Sir William Courtenay, Bart. the 5th of that name, as a reward for his services in Ireland.†

The markets and fairs of Newcastle are held in the square, on the north side of which are the market-house and assembly-rooms. On the south, is a very handsome church and tower, built in 1777,

* In the Council of Vienna, held on the 22d of March, 1312, the Knights Templars were accused of practices contrary to religion and humanity, in consequence of which the order was suppressed ; and Malay, their grand master, was burned alive at Paris, in the following year.

† Sir William Courtenay, ancestor of the present Lord Courtenay, was knighted in 1599, by the Earl of Essex, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, for his military services in the county of Limerick : he settled the Newcastle estate on his fourth son, George, to whom the manor of Mayne (forfeited by a branch of the Fitz Maurice family) was left, by his uncle, Henry Oughtred, on his taking the name of Oughtred. The manor of Bewley was also settled on George Courtenay, by Robert Strode ; but his son Francis Oughtred Courtenay dying without issue, the three manors fell to the elder branch of the family, in which it has ever since remained.

at the expense of Lord Courtenay, which contains a painting of his Lordship's arms, and on a tablet the following inscription:—

“ Ut benefactorum pietas et munificentia

“ Posteris innotescant :

“ Gulielmum Vice Comitem de Courtenay

“ Hæc memorat tabula

“ Hujusce ecclesiæ fundatorem.”

The church stands close to the walls and fortifications of the Knights Templars, and one of the castles is fitted up in a beautiful manner, as a residence for Lord Courtenay's agent. During the late disturbances, it was strongly fortified, in consequence of the hostile intentions which the insurgents manifested towards that gentleman. At Newcastle is also a very handsome house belonging to the Rev. Mr. Lock, with a well-planted demesne.

At a little distance to the south-west of Newcastle, is Monegea or Teampol na Mona, a rectory and vicarage, valued in the King's books at £2 Irish, being one of the parishes which constitute the union of Newcastle. The west side of this parish is mountainous, and in this vicinity are Rathcahill, the seat of William Browne, Esq. ; Gardenfield, that of the late Bryan Sheehy, Esq. and Mount Plummer, the old family mansion of Brudenell Plummer, Esq. West of Rathcahill is an old church, called Teampol Gleantain, in which is a tomb of the Lacy family.

Mahoonagh, or Castle Mahon parish, situated south-east of Newcastle, contains more than 500

acres : the village stands on the east of the Deel, over which there is a good bridge of four arches ; near it on an eminence are the noble ruins of a castle built by the Fitzgeralds, and the walls of an old church and burying place ; and adjoining the castle stood Castle Mahon-house, which was burnt down by the insurgents. The manor of Mayne to the right contains the remains of an old castle and fortifications, situated on a rising ground, which have been converted into a barrack : to the S.W. is Ballydonnell, the seat of Thomas Furlong, Esq. The ground in this and in a great part of the adjoining parishes, is entirely pasture, being generally covered with dairy cows.

South of Monegea is Killeedy, a rectory and vicarage, being the corps of the Prebend thereof, which is valued in the King's books at £2 Irish, the vicarage at the same, and the parish contains 6000 acres : the church and glebe-house were burnt down by the insurgents, during the late disturbances. In this parish are situated the ruins of Killeedy and Glynquin castles : the latter was built by an Irish chieftain named O'Hallinan.*

* This castle, we are informed, was at one time surprized by O'Brien of Glynistare, who put all the family to death, except an infant child who was in the cradle. The child was brought up as a servant in the house of O'Brien ; but after he arrived at maturity, becoming acquainted with the history and dreadful fate of his family, he resolved to avenge their death ; and while hunting soon after with O'Brien, he slew

Ballintubber, the seat of Edward Sheehy Esq. and Glanduff, that of Mr. Stevelly, are in this vicinity; and to the south is the dreary mountain of Mullagh an Uais, that is, the Summit of Fatigue, a name given to it by the Rapparees of Kerry and Cork, who were accustomed to drive the cattle they had stolen from the low lands of the county of Limerick over this high mountain. Near this is the village of Cool.

Killaliathan is a vicarage in the southern part of the barony, containing about 2500 acres. In this parish is Springfield Castle, the seat of Lord Muskerry, which, with the adjoining manor, belonged to a younger branch of the Desmond family, who were called Lords of Clenlis.*

Clouncah and Clonelty, rectories and vicarages, valued in the King's books, the former at 10s. sterling, and the latter at £1 sterling; contain 5600 acres. A religious house was built at Clouncah by St. Maidoc, of Ferns, who died A. D. 624. On the East bank of the Deel in this parish is Knockaderry, or Cnoc a deire (i. e. the end of the hills) a fine old

him, and then having collected his father's friends and followers, he took possession of Glynquin Castle, and recovered his ancient inheritance.

* Lord Muskerry married in 1795, Anne Fitzmaurice, sole heiress of her grandfather, John Fitzmaurice of Springfield Castle in the county of Limerick, who was son of Captain William Fitzmaurice, second son of William, the twentieth Lord Kerry. Captain Fitzmaurice served in the Earl of Drogheda's regiment at the siege of Limerick, under General Ginkle.

seat of the Darcy family, with extensive plantations; near which is Kilmurry old church, and a little to the south Grange old church, both near the Deel, which here flows through a beautiful and rich valley. The hill of Ballyhahill runs due east from this towards Ballingarry; to the south of which is Ballinoe Castle: the country in this vicinity is a dead flat, consisting entirely of meadow and pasture. Corcomohide is a rectory and vicarage, valued in the King's books at £3 Irish; the rectory constitutes part of the union of Kilmallock, and the vicarage is united to Clouncagh and Clonelty. There is a church in good repair at Corcomohide, but neither glebe-house nor glebe: in this parish is the village of Ballygran.

Abbeyfeale, due west of Newcastle, containing 2000 acres, is a vicarage, but the benefice is too small for a resident incumbent: in the village, which stands on the river Feale, fairs are holden on the 29th of June, and 18th of October. An abbey for Cistercians was founded here A. D. 1188, which was afterwards made a cell to the abbey of Manister-nenagh. From Newcastle to Abbeyfeale, the country (with the exception of a few cultivated spots) presents nothing but a wild display of bog and mountain. At the foot of the mountain of Luedera is said to have been situated Cluain Chuduel, or Kilita, an abbey in high repute, which was founded by St. Ita or Mida, a descendant of the blood royal of Munster, who died the 15th of January, 569: her festival is still solemnized in this part of the country.

Ballingarry in the North East, is a vicarage episcopally united to the rectories and vicarages of Robertstown and Dunmoylan in Lower Connello, and those of Daragh and Kilfinnan in Coshlea : there are two churches in this union, both in good repair, one at Ballingarry and the other at Kilfinnan ; and the union contains 9000 acres. Ballingarry, formerly the residence of a branch of the house of Lacy, is a large village, having some good houses, one of which is the residence of Thomas Odell, Esq. : four annual fairs are held here. Near the village, situated on an eminence, is Grove, the fine house and demesne of Colonel William Odell, who represented this county in Parliament four several times. A beautiful glen finely planted with every kind of timber trees, and an extensive deer-park, full of aged whitethorns, are also in the neighbourhood of the town. In the same vicinity is Kilshane or Kilsona, a friary erected for Conventual Franciscans, by Fitzgerald, Lord of the territory of Clenlis ; and here was also situated an abbey for Cistercian Monks, which was founded in 1198, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary : Jungelin calls it Kilson, and says it had been once an abbey founded in 1198, but that it was afterwards a cell belonging to the Petra Fertilis, or our Lady of the Fruitful Rock, at Corcomore in the county of Clare, which was seated in a pleasant place, and was founded in the year 1194, by Donald O'Brien, King of Limerick. The walls of Kilshane abbey still remain,

in the centre of which is a very beautiful square tower, of great height. Near the town, on the west, are the ruins of a castle built by the Knights Templars, and now called Parsons Castle: on the south are Woodstock Castle, and that of Lios a Mhota, granted by Charles II. to Sir Allen Broderick, ancestor of Lord Middleton. The seats of the gentry so abound in this parish, that we must be content with the following enumeration:—The Wood, belonging to Mr. Fitzgerald—Mount Browne, John Southwell Browne, Esq.—Odellville, Alexander Odell, Esq.—Glenwilliam, George Massy, Esq.—Ballynoe Cox, William Cox, Esq.—Liskennett, Patrick M'Mahon, Esq.—Coolrus, Sir Richard Harte.—Kilmore, Thomas Lynch, Esq.—and Ballyknockane, Michael Scanlan, Esq.* Jackson's Turret, built on a hill, was formerly the residence of Mr. Jackson, who was celebrated for his skill on the Irish bag-pipes, and the composition of some of our most admired national airs: this turret was a fine object to the surrounding country, but it is now nearly in ruins, having been struck by lightning some years ago.—Between a range of hills that run west from Jackson's Turret and Knockfirine, situate to the north, is a fine valley, consisting of excellent ground. Knockfirine is considered the highest mountain in the coun-

* Patrick O'Scanlan of this family, was made Archbishop of Armagh, A. D. 1256, during the Pontificate of Alexander IV. and the reign of Henry III. of England.—*Hibernia Dominicana*, page 459.

ty ; on its summit is an heap of stones called in Irish *Stuadhraicin*, or the Pinnacle, which, in all probability, was erected by either the Irish or Danes, as a *specula*, from whence to give the signal by fire of the approach of an enemy.*

Kilfenny joins the parish of Ballingarry on the east : it is a rectory and vicarage, valued in the King's books at £1 16s. 8d. Irish, and is one of the parishes which constitute the corps of the precentorship of Nantenan. At the foot of a hill stands Kilfenny Castle, formerly the residence of Sir John Dowdall, which still exhibits strong marks of its former magnificence : it was besieged by the Irish, commanded by Lieutenant General Patrick Purcell, of Croagh, in the wars of 1641, and was resolutely defended by the widow of Sir John Dowdall,† who was at length forced to surrender, the Irish having got possession of the hill in the rere, and two windmills which commanded the castle. In this vicinity are the walls of an old church, strongly built, and at present overshadowed by two alder trees that grow within them. In the church which is separated from

* Livy, in his account of the wars between the Romans and Philip, King of Macedon, says, that the latter made use of such signals, to discover the movements of the enemy.

† Elizabeth, wife of Sir John Dowdall of Kilfenny, was daughter of Sir Thomas Southwell. After the death of Sir John, she married Donogh O'Brien, son to Daniel O'Brien, Viscount Clare, by Catherine, daughter of Gerald, the sixteenth Earl of Desmond, who lost his life and property in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

the aisle by a strong wall and iron gate, is a beautiful white marble monument with the following inscription :—

“ Here lyeth the body of Gertrude Pigot, alias Southwell, daughter of Sir Thomas Southwell, of Castle Matrass, in said County, Bart. together with her three sons, John, Robert, and Richard, and her daughter Anne, in hopes of a joyful resurrection to life eternal ; she departed this life 28th of May, in the year 1683. This small monument was erected by John Pigot, in memory of his said wife and children, the 13th day of June, in the year of our Lord, 1718.”

Adjoining this was Ballynakill house, which was burnt by the insurgents on the 24th of Feb. 1822, as it had been converted into a barrack for soldiers ; and to the east of the church is Finiterstown Castle. The parish contains more than 2000 acres of very light land, with some bog and quagmires : fairs are holden on the Common four times a year.

COSHLEA.

This is the most S. E. barony in the county, and contains fourteen parishes.

Galbally is a rectory and vicarage in the diocese of Emly : the rectory is valued in the King's books at 10s. sterling, and the vicarage at £5 1s. being one of the parishes which constitute the union of Killenelick, which is a prebend in the same diocese, united at a period prior to any known record to the rectories and vicarages of Ballinlondery and Galbally, the rectories entire of Ballingarry and Kilbeheny, and the parishes of Clonlarkagh and Duntri-

league, being the corps of the prebend thereof: the union contains about 6000 acres. Fairs are holden at Galbally on the 12th of May and 15th of October.

Galbally, which signifies the town of the Gauls or Celts, must formerly have been a place of great note, for we find that in the year 1601, the President Carew gave orders that all the chiefs of every county in Munster, should assemble themselves at Galbally in the county of Limerick, and bring with them the best forces they could make up, of horse and foot, together with provisions for ten days, to attend such directions as they should be commanded by the Lord Barry, who was appointed General of the Provincials; and accordingly that there assembled there 1300 foot and 120 horse of the county of Cork only.

There was a monastery founded here in the year 1204, by Donogh Cairbreach O'Brien for Franciscan Friars. The ruins of this friary are yet remaining, with those of several other religious foundations, which sufficiently shew the ancient magnificence of Galbally. On the 20th of January, and in the 35th of Henry VIII. this monastery, with three gardens, six messuages, and six acres of arable land, was granted in capite to John of Desmond for ever, at the yearly rent of four pence Irish money.

At Galbally is a very large and excellent glebe-house, with all necessary offices built in 1794, on a large scale, with well-enclosed gardens, under the direction of Lord Somerton, then Archbishop of

Cashel. The church which is in good repair is situated about two miles from the glebe-house, at the west of Duntrileague hill, adjoining which is a very large roofed vault, and near it the ruins of the ancient mansion-house of the Massy family.* From the vicinity of Galbally to the Galtees, on the south, there are large tracts of flat land covered with heath and furze; but there is also a great quantity under tillage and pasture, and the variety of scenery exhibited by these lofty mountains, whose sides are almost perpendicular, and whose height pierces the clouds, is truly grand and magnificent.

On the north side of Duntrileague hill stands Castle Creagh, a very handsome seat of the Bennet family, now in ruins: it was finely planted and romantically situated on the side of the hill, and at the extremity of a deep and beautiful glen, on the verge of which is the road to Galbally. In the upper part of the parish is Stagdale, the noble residence of Hugh Massy, Esq. and near it Riversdale, a fine house and demesne belonging to the Hon. George Massy.

In the adjoining parish of Glenbrohane, which contains 2400 acres, is Griston, a fine old place,

* Hugh Massy came to Ireland to suppress the Rebellion of 1641; to him succeeded his son Hugh, of Duntrileague, whose son of the same name, born in 1685, was father to the first Lord Massy. He married the fourth daughter of the Right Hon. George Evans, of Cahirass, in this county, father of the first Lord Carbery.

which belonged to Charles Massy, Esq. brother to the first Lord Massy, and to General Massy, who was the first Lord Clarina. To the S. S. W. is Kilbenny, a rectory entire in the diocese of Emly, which contains 1388 acres. In this parish there is much light land, and through numerous hills runs a well-planted glen, which is watered by a fine rivulet that rushes from a neighbouring eminence. About two miles north of Duntrileague, is Ballyvire, the seat of John Bolton Massy, Esq.; the house has been lately fitted up and furnished in a very tasteful manner: the lawn is planted with flowering shrubs of various kinds, and the demesne, which is partly in the county of Limerick, and partly in that of Tipperary, is well enclosed, and contains some of the richest land in Ireland.

Knocklong, west of Duntrileague, is a vicarage in the diocese of Emly, being one of the parishes which constitute the union of Aney: it contains 2198 acres of land of the richest kind, the greater part under pasture. Two fairs are annually held in the village.* In the west of the parish is the old

* Knocklong is called by our Irish writers Druim Dabhaire. They inform us, that Cormac, the son of Art, King of Ireland, marched as far as this place, where he encamped with the intention of giving battle to Fiacha, King of Munster, who refused to pay him tribute. The latter posted himself at a little distance, determined to oppose the Monarch, who having a fine country in his rear, cut off all supplies; and the weather being dry, water soon became scarce. But Fiacha, by the advice of a Druid from Kerry, to whom he promised the lands

castle of Ballynahinch, built by a branch of the Clan Gibbon family. On the hill of Long are the walls of an old church and the ruins of a castle formerly the residence of Sir Thomas Hurley, whose beautiful monument we noticed in our description of Emly. East of this stands the old mansion of the Ryves family, who came originally from Gloucestershire.* Ryves Castle or Castle Jane, is now the residence of John Lowe, Esq.; and near it is Scarteen, a snug cottage with suitable offices, belonging to Thaddæus O'Ryan, Esq. The land from Knocklong to the south as far as Ballinvreena mountains, in Glenbrohane parish, being part of the Golden Vein, is covered with fat cattle and dairy cows. Four fairs are annually held in Ballinvreena.

Ballyscaddane, adjoining the parish of Knocklong, is a rectory entire, in the diocese of Emly, united to the rectories of Drombann and Gleannbann in the county of Tipperary, being the corps of the deanery of Emly, which is valued in the King's books at

now called Roche's and Condon's country, in the county of Cork, caused deep pits to be dug, by which he was well supplied; and being now refreshed, with his Munster troops, attacked the Monarch in his entrenchments, and compelled him, after a gallant resistance, to retreat towards Ossory, whither he was pursued by Fiacha, who compelled him to sign a treaty which he swore by the sun, moon, and stars, to observe. This is said to have happened about 260 years before the Christian era.

* The first of this family that came over to Ireland was Captain Ryves, who, after the surrender of Limerick in 1691, settled in this part of the country.

£2 13s. 4d. sterling. South of Duntrileague is Ballinlanders, a rectory and vicarage in the diocese of Emly, containing 2086 acres. West of this parish is Ballingarry, a rectory entire, which contains 2187 acres : there is no church or glebe house in any of these parishes.

Kilfinnan, south west of Knocklong, is a vicarage in the diocese of Limerick, holden with the vicarage of Daragh from a very remote period, and it is one of the parishes which constitute the union of Ballingarry in Upper Connello : the parishes of Kilfinnan and Daragh are contiguous, and contain 4000 acres. Kilfinnan is a small town situate at the foot of a range of mountains, and commands an extensive prospect of the county towards the North. Three annual fairs are held here : it has a church in good repair, and there was formerly a charter school in the town which was built at the expense of Robert Oliver, Esq.

Near Kilfinnan are Spahill, the handsome seat of Charles D. Oliver, Esq. and Castle Oliver, once a magnificent house, and finely-wooded demesne, belonging to Richard Gascoyne Oliver, Esq. Of this place Mr. Young has given the following description :—
“In the park is a glen a mile long, winding in a pleasing manner, having a wood hanging on the sides, and a stream conducted through the vale forming several waterfalls, in an exceeding good taste. A path winds through a wood along the brow of the glen and leads to a sequestered hermitage, and a cave in a

rock: the vale beneath the house when viewed from the high grounds is pleasing, having several enclosures surrounded by fine trees; and a noble mass of wood rises from them up the mountain's side. On the whole, the place is highly improved, and there are several good paintings in the house by Sebastian Ricci, Laverini," &c. We lament to say that Castle Oliver now falls very short of the above description, the present proprietor having gone to reside in England many years since: the greater part of the timber is cut down, and the house and demesne much neglected. Many Palatine families were settled here about fifty years ago by the late Right Hon. Silver Oliver, and as in other places where they have been established, they have greatly improved the face of the country, and the general habits of the peasantry.

Near Kilfinnan is the parish of Ardpatrik, which contains 2487 acres. Archdall states that St. Patrick founded an abbey here, of which no historical account can be found; but an inquisition taken in the 32d year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, finds that various lands containing forty acres of great measure, annual value besides reprises 6s. 8d. were parcels of the possessions of this abbey. By two inquisitions in the 39th of Queen Elizabeth, it was found that the hill named Ardpatrik, containing three acres of great measure, and making twenty-one acres of small measure, was in former times granted to the Corbe-ship* founded in the church of Ardpatrik, and that

* Corbe, Corbah or Comhurba, was supposed by the learned

the rent of 6s. 8d. was paid annually thereout to the Bishop of Limerick ; that the said office had continued by succession from time immemorial in the sept of the Langanes, and that Maurice Langane, who in right thereof enjoyed the said lands, was at that time the possessor.* At Ardpatrick stood a fine round tower, the greater part of which fell a few years since : near this is Sunville, the old residence of the Godsell family ; and near Kilfinnan is one of the most perfect Danish mounts in Ireland, surrounded with three strong ramparts and deep fosses.

North of Kilfinnan is Bulgadeen parish, which contains 1562 acres. Here is a small village of thatched houses, and the ruins of a castle, a little to the north of which is Bulgadeen Hall, once the superb seat of John Evans, Esq. who was brother to the first Lord Carbery : its present fine remains prove it to have ranked amongst the most magnificent mansions in Munster ; but it is now almost in ruins, none of the family having resided here for many years. To the south-east is the Castle of Fantstown.

Ballingaddy, west of Bulgadeen, is a rectory

Dr. Ussher, to be the same with Chorepiscopus or Archpresbyter ; the name of Comhurba, he observes, occurs frequently in the early annals of Ireland : thus, the Comhurba of St. Patrick means the then Archbishop of Armagh ; and so the word is explained by Colgan, in his " Trias Thaumaturga."

* Ceallach Mac Aodh Mac Maoil Iosa, was the name of an Archbishop of Armagh in 1107, who died at Ardpatrick, in the county of Limerick, and was buried at Lismore in 1129.

and vicarage in the diocese of Limerick, and contains 1665 acres. In this parish are Mount Coote, mentioned in a former page, and Fairyfield a neat residence of the Rev. James Ellard. Effin, west of Ballingaddy, is a rectory and vicarage in the diocese of Limerick, and contains 1052 acres. In this parish are Newpark, which belonged to the late Major John Holmes, and Brickfield, a fine old mansion of the Weeks family, now extinct. The remaining parishes in Coshlea, are Kilbreedy Major, and Kilflin, which is the most southern parish in the barony, and contains 857 acres: in it is the village of Ballyorgan, inhabited by Palatines, which contains a new church and glebe house, as also the walls of an old abbey of which no mention is made by Ware or any other writer. A great part of the barony of Coshlea is mountainous, but the low lands are some of the best in Ireland, being mostly used for fattening and dairy.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The County of Limerick, is so much exposed to the winds from the Atlantic Ocean, that the air is generally moist.* The greatest general height of the thermometer in the shade in summer is 72; its greatest

* The following was the result of atmospherical observations, made in the county of Limerick, during two consecutive years:—

	1810	1811
Days with rain	217	246
Nights with Frost,	76	53

depression 58—the greatest general height in winter is 54; greatest depression 28. The climate appears highly favorable to the longevity of the natives, as is proved from the annexed tables, by which were returned in the census of 1821, more than eighteen hundred persons from seventy to one hundred years of age, and eight of one hundred and upwards.

The general aspect of the county is flat, but diversified by small hills, except on the south-east, where it is bounded by the lofty ridge of mountains called the Galtees, extending into Tipperary, and on the borders of Kerry to the south-west, where the land grows uneven, and forms a grand theatre of low steep mountains stretching in a curve from Loghill to Drumcolloher. The intermediate space between this and the Shannon contains some of the richest land in Ireland, the soil in general being a rich, mellow, crumbling, sandy loam, fit for every kind of culture and grazing, one acre being sufficient to fatten the largest bullock, and give some winter and spring food to sheep. The richest lands, (comprising about 100,000 acres,) are to be found in the baronies of Small County, Coonagh, Coshlea, Coshma and Clanwilliam, and in the neighbourhood of Bruff, Kilmallock, and Hospital. This fertile district which is called the Golden Vein, stretches from Charleville to Tipperary by Kilfinnan, twenty-five miles, and across from Ardpatrik to within four miles of the city of Limerick. Mr. Young considered this the richest soil he ever saw, equally suited to

grazing or tillage. The barony of Kenry is the most remarkable for the fine quality of its wheat: the corcasses which extend fifteen miles along the Shannon, have a soil of yellow and blue clay, covered with a black mould; the grass produced by these corcasses serves to fatten bullocks, while excellent bricks are made of the clay. "When they break this land up," says Mr. Young, "they sow first oats, and get twenty barrels an acre, or forty common barrels, and do not reckon that an extra crop; they take ten or twelve in succession upon one ploughing, until the crops grow poor, and then they sow one of horse beans, which refreshes the land enough to take ten crops of oats more." The wheat crop is generally very great, and the produce of potatoes is about sixty barrels in some instances above one hundred barrels, of twenty-two stone each, per acre. The soil of other parts of the county, particularly in the west between the Maig and the Deel, consists of a light limestone, well suited for cows and sheep. The boggy grounds are peculiarly adapted for the culture of hemp, and in the rich lands flax grows to an extraordinary height, and has lately come into very general cultivation.

Several rivers add to the beauty and fertility of the county. Of the Shannon which waters the whole extent of its northern boundary, we shall speak in a subsequent page, noticing at present only those inferior streams by which the interior is intersected.

The Commogue takes its rise at Drom Commoige,

between Emly and Knocklong, in the barony of Coshlea; and flowing westward through a very rich pasture country for a few miles, enters the barony of Small County, and takes its course south of Hospital to Rathanny. From hence it flows northerly, till at a short distance from the church of Knockany, it takes a north-west direction through a fertile district, called Gort a Chluana, where the small rivers of Hospital and Ballinamona unite with it. Then continuing its course through a deep and flat country for about two miles, it enters the parish of Cahircorney, where it forms a small lake which often overflows the lands on each side, to the great prejudice of the farmer. After passing by the glebe of Ballingoola, and the old church of Bailenambrathar, it crosses the public road from Limerick to Cork, under Six-mile Bridge, which is a very handsome structure of stone, and flows through the corcasses of Fedamore, where it forms in winter, a lake of some miles in circumference. It then passes by the Abbey of Manisternenagh, and under Manister bridge, at about two miles from which it joins the river Maig near Croom. Though its length from its source to this junction, is little more than twenty miles, yet in that short distance, the Commogue flows under nine bridges, and has seven churches or abbeys, and five castles, on, or immediately near its banks.

The Mulchaire takes its rise in the mountains of Bilboa, in the barony of Coonagh, and is joined

near Coolinapishe, by a small river that flows from the mountains of Cappaghwhite. It then flows a little to the east of the new line from Limerick to Tipperary, continues its course by the old Castle of Brittas, Abington and Liosmullane, near which the Newport river runs into it, and crosses the road from Limerick to Dublin, under Anacotty bridge, at a little distance below which it unites with the Shannon.

The Dawn, or as it is sometimes called, the Morning Star, rises near Ballinvreena mountain, in the barony of Coshlea, and passing by Elton, and the old castles of Ballinahinch and Baggotstown, in the barony of Small County, takes its course due west, and after a distance of about three miles, crosses the public road from Limerick to Cork, under the bridge of Bruff. It afterwards passes under the bridges of Camass and Athlacca, and at a mile distance from the latter, joins the Maig opposite the seat of Mr. Mason, in the barony of Coshma.

The Maig has its origin near Kilfinnan in the barony of Coshlea, and running by Kilmallock, unites with another branch which takes its rise at a place called Fort, near Drew's Court, in the barony of Upper Connello: it then directs its course to the north, flowing under the bridge of Bruree, and through a beautiful valley to Howardstown; from whence it crosses the road from Athlacca to Coolrus,

and flowing by Mr. Mason's of Cooline, receives the Dawn as before stated, and then continues its course through Glen Maig to Bellvue, Cherry Grove, and through Anhid parish. After receiving the Commogue, it passes through the villages of Croom and Adare, and falls into the Shannon seven miles below Limerick.

The Deel rises near the village of Annagh in the county of Cork, and bending a northern course, runs through Rathkeale, Stoneville, Altavilla, and Askeaton, at a little distance from which it discharges itself into the Shannon. The Feale springs from the mountains that bound the counties of Limerick and Kerry, and running through the former for about ten miles to Abbeyfeale, proceeds in a winding course, westerly through Kerry towards Listowel and other villages in that county, when it receives the river Gall, and afterwards the Brick, which from their junction to the sea, near the mouth of the Shannon, lose their respective names, and are called the Coishin. There is also a small river called the Groody, in this county, which takes its rise near Ballybrood, in the barony of Clanwilliam, and running through the villages of Cahirconlish and Ballysimon, crosses the public road near the turnpike which bears its name, at little more than a mile from Limerick, where it discharges itself into the Shannon.

All these rivers abound more or less with fish of

various descriptions, so that we may say in the following lines of Pope's Windsor Forest:—

Our plenteous streams a various race supply,
The bright ey'd perch, with fins of Tyrian dye,
The silver eel, in shining volumes roll'd,
The yellow carp, in scales bedrop'd with gold,
Swift trouts, diversify'd with crimson stains,
And pikes, the tyrants of the wat'ry plains.

The County of Limerick is not only well watered, but with the exception of a few parishes, well supplied with fuel, from the numerous bogs with which it abounds. The turf is sometimes dug out with instruments called slanes, and formed into little spits, in shape and size not unlike our common bricks; each of which when thoroughly dried for burning, appears to be a mass of roots so closely united together, that in its natural moist situation in the bog it cuts close and smooth like drained mud. Another kind, called hand turf, is made by men tempering it in the bogholes with their feet, and when thrown on the bank, moulding it with their hands into a shape somewhat similar to that of the slane turf.

With respect to the origin and formation of bogs, various hypotheses have been indulged. Mr. Bushe, in his *Hibernia Curiosa*, observes, that though bogs have been generally classed among the natural disadvantages of the kingdom, he considered them among the number of its natural curiosities; and he states it as the general opinion that the trees which are fre-

quently found at the bottom of them, at various depths, were originally thrown down by the Universal Deluge. Mr. Young conceives their formation to have been much more recent, and that they originated in the cutting or burning of the Irish forests. The natives might have cut and burned their woods enough for the tree to fall, and they might have afterwards been prevented by war and intestine divisions from cultivating those spots, which thus neglected, became bogs. Trees lying very thick on the ground, would become an impediment to all streams and currents, and gathering in their branches whatever rubbish such waters brought with them, form a mass, which acquiring an acid quality by time, would preserve some of the trunks, but not the branches. Oak, fir, yew, and various other kinds of trees, are found at the bottom of these bogs, some broken, others cut, but more frequently with marks of fire upon them; and at the depth of fifty feet, have been seen furrows in the land which had once been ploughed.

The growth of bogs depends on a variety of circumstances; as the situation, soil, humidity and quality of the vegetable food, by which they are nourished. In some places it is very rapid, in others very slow; and therefore their altitudes cannot afford any certain data to the period of their origin. They are not so injurious to health as is commonly imagined, for they are of such a texture as to resist putrefaction above any other substance. “We know of the bog

waters," says Mr. Pinkerton, "that far from emitting putrid exhalations, like stagnant pools and marshes, they are of an antiseptic and strongly astringent quality, as appears from their preserving for ages, and even adding to the durability of the timber, which is found buried beneath their surfaces, and from their converting into a sort of leather, the skins of men and animals who have had the misfortune of being lost and remaining in them for any length of time." Butter has been found buried deep in bogs, which some imagine to be the tallow of the moose deer. About a stone weight of this butter was found in Skule bog near Fedamore, in the county of Limerick, in the month of June 1821, some of which is now in the author's possession: it is light, white and hard, but very unctuous. That the length of time it had been buried was very great, is evident from its being found twelve feet below the surface of the bog. Various methods have been recommended for reclaiming bogs, and rendering them subservient to the purposes of grazing and husbandry, and in many parts of the kingdom they have been adopted with success.*

* On the 7th July, 1697, at Kilmallock, in the county of Limerick, a great noise was heard in the earth, like thunder, attended with whirlwinds: soon after, to the great terror of the spectators, a bog stretching north and south began to move, as well as the pasture land which lay on the side of it, separated by a very large ditch, and a small hill in the middle of the bog sunk flat. The ground fluctuated like a wave; the pasture land rising very high, and rolling on with

A great part of this county still labours under the odium of being extremely deficient in timber, a want complained of by almost every foreign tourist. Yet Mr. Young asserts that in the districts of Ireland which he visited, one hundred contiguous acres are not to be found without evident marks that they had been once well wooded ; adding that the destruction of these woods had not been of any ancient date, and that they continued to be cut and wasted with the most thoughtless prodigality. He asserts that there is no application of the best land in the kingdom, which would equal the profit of planting the worst in it ; and he recommends various methods for encouraging the growth of timber, which deserve the attention of the farmer and the land-owner. Considerable improvement in this respect has taken place since the period when Mr. Young published his tour, but much still remains to be done to place the natural beauties of our country in their just light ; and we may add with him, “What a figure would Ireland make on a comparison with its present state, if one tree stood by every cabin.” This and the adjoining county of Clare are famous for their orchards, which produce

great violence, covered a meadow sixteen feet deep. In this motion it drew after it a great part of the bog into the place where the pasture land stood before, and the chasms spouted out water and noxious vapours, and continued so to do. Numbers of people went from all places to see this surprising phenomenon, the account of which was communicated by William Molyneux, Esq. who had a farm adjoining the bog.—*Boate's Natural History.*

the much admired cyder called cackagee. An acre of trees yields from four to ten hogsheads.

Various districts of the county of Limerick are rich in mineral treasure. Coal has been found at Tontore, Castle Creagh, and at the foot of the Galtee mountains, near Galbally ; copper, ten miles north of the latter place, and iron north of this vein, and south-west of Limerick. Lead occurs in the limestone mountains above the Deel, near Askeaton ; and a mine of this description, is now worked with considerable success near Ballysteen on the borders of the Shannon, the seat of Col. Westropp. Within the last twenty years, in the barony of Kenry, a lead mine of a very rich quality was worked, and a cargo exported ; but it has been abandoned for want of capital and enterprise. There are strong indications of a similar mine at Mount Fox, part of the lands of Mr. Lee. A coal mine has been found near Ballybrood, in the barony of Clanwilliam ; but the working of it was abandoned after a trifling expenditure : the transition from a lime-stone to a shingle commences here, and that shingle continues for near four miles to Linfield, where the late Mr. Apjohn also made an experiment. Irish porphyry has been found in this neighbourhood, of which some remarkably handsome chimney-pieces have been made by Mr. Barry of Limerick. A fine black marble, without any mixture of white, has been discovered at Ballysimon ; a spar, white, hard, and pellucid, near Gleno-

gra Castle, in the neighbourhood of Lough Gur; at Rathmore Castle, excellent pipe-clay; and fine slate near Abbeyfeale on the borders of the county. At Loughill, in the west, culm is raised in vast quantities, and is made much use of in burning lime.

The face of nature is animated by all the variety of birds and quadrupeds, common to the south of Ireland. The very minute description of their different tribes, which Doctor Smith has given in his Histories of Cork, Waterford, and Kerry, precludes the necessity of our noticing them in detail. It has, however, been observed that some species of birds have greatly diminished since that period. Eagles, which formerly frequented the hills of Lough Gur, are now rarely seen, and this is also the case with the flocks of wild swans, which swarmed in the corcasses of Cahircorney, Carriegen, and other parts of the county. In severe weather, wild geese arrive in great numbers from the bleak shores of the ocean, and remain feeding on the young grass in the marshes, until the season of incubation. A considerable diminution has been observed in many species of the feathered race, which has been attributed, with great appearance of probability, to the destruction of those woods and forests, which in former ages yielded them both food and shelter.

The bones and horns of that enormous animal, the moose deer, have been found in many parts of

the county, from five to ten feet deep in boggy ground. Five pair of these horns were discovered not long since on the lands of Castle Farm, near Hospital, and another pair at Rathcannan: seven pair were found by Archdeacon Maunsell of Limerick, near Knocktoe in this county, one of which, with every bone belonging to the animal, he has sent to the museum of the Dublin Society. They are supposed by Sir Thomas Molyneux, and other eminent writers, to have been of the same species with the American elk or moose-deer, and Sir Thomas was of opinion, that they were formerly as frequent in Ireland, as they are now in the Missouri country.* Various conjectures have been indulged respecting the cause of the disappearance of this

* The American moose deer or elk, is described as measuring from the toe of the forefoot to the pitch of the shoulder twelve feet, and as many feet from the tip of one horn to that of the other. They are generally taken by being run down when the ground is covered with snow, in which the weight of the animal causes him to sink, and then he falls an easy prey to the lances of his pursuers. The Baron Lapontan says, "Its horns sometimes weigh three or four hundred weight. It usually resorts to planted countries, and the flesh of the female is delicious. It neither runs nor skips, but its trot will almost keep up with the running of the hart. The savages assure us that in summer it will trot three days and three nights without intermission. They commonly gather into a body towards the latter end of autumn, and the herds are largest about the beginning of spring, after which they disperse themselves. The savages make canoes of their skins, which they sew together very easily, covering the seams with a sort of earth instead of pitch."

noble race of animals from amongst us. By some it has been attributed to the General Deluge, and by others to a plague similar to that which sometimes sweeps off whole herds of rein-deer in Lapland: but it is most probable that they were perpetually hunted by our ancient Nimrods, till the whole species was destroyed: their remains being usually found in boggy ground, renders it likely that the pursuit was conducted in a similar manner to that of the American Indians of the present day.* Though animals of the chace have greatly diminished since the destruction of our forests, yet a sufficient number still remains to excite frequent hunting excursions.

* The Dublin Philosophical Journal, No. II. states that in the summer of 1821, the body of a man was found in a bog in the county of Galway, near the seat of C. D. Bellew, Esq. It lay about nine feet below the surface, and when discovered had all the appearance of recent death; but on exposure to the atmosphere it decayed rapidly. The face was that of a young man, of handsome features and foreign aspect, and his long black hair hung loosely over his shoulders. The body was clothed in a tight dress, composed of the skin of some animal, (supposed to be that of the moose deer,) with the hair inwards; and on each side of the body was found a long pole, similar to those mentioned by Tacitus as having been used by the ancient Silures, for bounding over streams. The antiquity of these remains is proved by the great depth at which they were found, and as woollen garments were in use in Ireland for many centuries before the arrival of the English, there can be little doubt that this was the body of one of the ancient Firbolgs, who probably lost his life while engaged in the chace, of which they are known to have been passionately fond.

The preceding pages shew that the seats of the gentry are numerous, and generally well improved. Some districts are not deficient in fine scenery, while the monuments of antiquity which abound in every quarter, present interesting vestiges of our history, through the pagan, the monastic, and the feudal ages. But besides those ecclesiastical and military ruins which have been noticed, in many parts of the county the fire places of the *Fianna Eirionn* are turned by the plough and by the spade, in which are found much black burnt earth, charcoal, sooty and silicious stones. These hearths are designated by the natives *Fulacht na Feinne*.*

* The *Fianna Eirionn* were, according to our Annals, the celebrated Irish Militia, commanded by *Fionn Mac Cumhail*, (the *Fingal* of *Ossian*.) They were kept in regular and constant pay by the Monarchs of Ireland, in whose service they acted as a standing army. They were quartered on the inhabitants from November to May; but during the rest of the year were obliged to support themselves by fishing and hunting. Keating tells us, that the method of dressing their meat was very particular: they sent their huntsmen with what they had killed to some proper place, where there was plenty of wood and water; there they kindled large fires, into which they threw a number of stones, where they were to continue till they were red hot: then they applied themselves to dig two great pits in the earth, at the bottom of one of which they used to lay some of those hot stones as a pavement, and upon them they placed the raw flesh: this method was observed till the pit was full; and in this manner their flesh was sodden or stewed till it was fit to eat. They filled the second pit with water, in which they performed their ablutions, and when these were finished, they emptied the hole and began their meal. After they had eaten, they set about

Many places are still called after those wild warriors, as, Sliabh na mbann Fionn, or the mountain frequented by the wives of the Feinne in the county of Tipperary. There is also a large mount like an inverted basin composed of stones and earth, erected on Cromwell's hill in the barony of Small County, which is called Sighchann na Fionn.

We shall conclude these observations by remarking that the county of Limerick abounds with objects well deserving the attention of the antiquarian, the agriculturist, and the political economist; and were public spirit combined with adequate capital to improve the great natural advantages with which Providence has blessed this rich and fertile district, the voice of complaint would soon cease to be heard; smiling plenty would reward the toil of the industrious cottager, while the landlord would enjoy with increased satisfaction, the higher advantages of his station, when conscious that he resided in the midst of a happy and contented peasantry. But on this subject we shall dwell more largely in its proper place.

building their huts or tents, in which they made their beds for the night, composed first of branches of trees laid on the ground; upon these was laid some dried moss, and over all was spread a bundle of green rushes. These beds are called in the old Irish Manuscripts, Tri Cuilche na Feinne; in English the three coverings of the Feinne or Irish militia.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

SYNOPTICAL TABLES
OF THE
STATE OF THE SEVERAL PARISHES
IN THE
COUNTY AND CITY OF LIMERICK,
WITH RESPECT TO
POPULATION, EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, &c.
AND
TABULAR VIEWS
OF THE
COMPARATIVE STATE OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES AND PROVINCES
OF IRELAND, WITH REGARD TO THE SAME IMPORTANT OBJECTS.

Founded on the Census taken by Order of Parliament, in 1821.

Many places are still called after their old names, and the names of the streets and houses are the same as in the old times.

SYNOPTICAL TABLES

OF THE SEVERAL PARISHES OF THE COUNTY OF LIMERICK, WITH REGARD TO THE POPULATION, EMPLOYMENT, &c.

COUNTY AND CITY OF LIMERICK

WITH REGARD TO THE POPULATION, EMPLOYMENT, &c.

TABULAR VIEWS

OF THE SEVERAL PARISHES OF THE COUNTY OF LIMERICK, WITH REGARD TO THE POPULATION, EMPLOYMENT, &c.

COMPARATIVE STATE OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES AND PROVINCES OF IRELAND, WITH REGARD TO THE SAME IMPORTANT OBJECTS.

AND THE SEVERAL PARISHES OF THE COUNTY OF LIMERICK, WITH REGARD TO THE POPULATION, EMPLOYMENT, &c.

AND THE SEVERAL PARISHES OF THE COUNTY OF LIMERICK, WITH REGARD TO THE POPULATION, EMPLOYMENT, &c.

Abstract of the Census of the Population, &c. of the County of Limerick, taken by Order of Parliament, A. D. 1821.

I. BARONY OF OWNEYBEG—5605 ACRES.*										
PARISHES.	Families.	Persons.	Employed in Agricult.	Employed in Trade, &c.	Otherwise occupied.	Total Employed.	Unem- ployed.	AT SCHOOLS.		
								Males.	Females.	Total.
Abington, (Part of)	972	5,205	971	363	309	1643	3,562	149	54	203
Tuogh, ..	552	2,843	571	233	146	950	1,893	118	46	164
Doon, (Part of)	105	603	104	13	47	164	439	—	—	—
Total	1,629	8,651	1,646	609	502	2,757	5,894	267	100	367
II. BARONY OF COONAGH—15,109 ACRES.										
PARISHES.	Families.	Persons.	Employed in Agricult.	Employed in Trade, &c.	Otherwise occupied.	Total Employed.	Unem- ployed.	AT SCHOOLS.		
								Males.	Females.	Total.
Pallas Grein, (Part of)	633	3,933	906	887	398	2,191	1,742	188	—	188
Doon, (Part of)	736	4,281	1,114	763	300	2,177	2,104	138	—	138
Templebradin, (Part of)	82	517	133	125	57	315	202	29	—	29
Ulloe, ..	382	2,331	555	528	212	1,295	1,036	32	—	32
Kilteely, (Part of)	196	1,237	324	347	78	749	488	180	—	180
Total	2,029	12,299	3,032	2,650	1,045	6,727	5,572	567	—	567

* The number of Acres is according to the Grand Jury Books.

III. CLANWILLIAM BARONY—18,019 ACRES.

PARISHES.	Families.	Persons.	Employed in Agriclt.	Employed in Trade, &c.	Otherwise occupied.	Total Employed.	Unem- ployed.	AT SCHOOLS.		
								Males.	Females.	Total.
Isert Laurence, ..	160	778	116	34	38	188	590	80	26	106
Cahirelly, (or Ballybricken,) ..	259	1,267	166	51	81	298	969	118	52	170
Fedamore, (Part of) ..	77	423	60	20	14	94	329	—	—	—
Cahirnarry, (Part of) ..	46	208	23	19	20	62	146	—	—	—
Ballybrood and Rathjordan, ..	285	1,561	285	61	92	438	1,123	—	—	—
Cahirconlish, ..	566	3,188	502	153	247	902	2,286	184	107	291
— Town, ..	104	482	50	32	41	123	359	88	14	102
Luddenbeg, ..	115	686	90	16	52	158	528	25	10	35
Cahirvallagh, (Part of) ..	52	285	34	8	40	82	203	35	25	60
Abington, (Part of) ..	200	1,083	209	51	76	336	717	—	—	—
Kilteely, (Part of) ..	108	596	117	28	18	163	433	—	—	—
Grein, (Part of) ..	112	631	123	17	35	175	456	70	28	98
Dromkeen, ..	105	546	111	28	31	170	376	90	26	116
Clonkeen ..	77	478	94	20	24	138	360	—	—	—
Kilnagariff, (Part of) ..	154	924	195	26	44	265	659	120	54	174
Newport, (Part of) ..	19	129	29	1	3	33	96	—	—	—
Stradbally, (Part of) ..	521	2,537	429	190	227	846	1,691	106	72	178
Castleconnell Village, ..	112	699	107	47	56	210	489	—	—	—
Total	3,072	16,501	2,740	802	1,139	4,681	11,840	916	414	1,330

IV. SMALL COUNTY BARONY.—24,699 ACRES.

PARISHES.	Families.	Persons.	Employed in Agricult.	Employed in Trade, &c.	Otherwise occupied.	Total Employed.	Unem- ployed.	AT SCHOOLS.		
								Males.	Females.	Total.
Bruree, (Part of)	98	568	132	15	45	192	376	60	22	82
Ballinlough, ..	198	1,152	245	31	52	328	824	160	70	230
Hospital, ..	299	1,666	412	49	92	553	1,113	60	—	60
Hospital Town ..	182	875	103	116	49	268	607	144	77	221
Manisternenagh, (Part of)	208	1,136	240	52	72	364	772	158	27	185
Fedamore, (Part of)	513	2,723	627	146	145	918	1,805	85	—	85
Kilpeacon, (Part of)	83	476	109	20	32	162	314	92	24	116
Cahircorney, ..	196	1,034	212	151	87	450	584	—	—	—
Kilcullane, ..	82	456	99	15	32	146	310	—	—	—
Athanessy, ..	76	511	98	33	41	172	339	90	54	144
Glenogra, ..	268	1,610	349	65	95	509	1,101	170	10	180
Ballycabane, (Part of) ..	36	210	49	28	13	90	120	—	—	—
Ballynamona, ..	95	570	151	113	26	290	280	30	20	50
Ballinard, (or Cahirfossorge)	159	866	171	128	39	338	528	145	56	201
Kilkeely, (Part of)	114	669	107	84	34	225	444	—	—	—
Kilfrush, ..	74	471	90	29	34	153	318	—	—	—
Uregare, (Part of)	96	588	126	18	40	184	404	—	—	—
Tullbracca, ..	129	657	138	75	37	250	407	25	18	43
Knockany, (or Aney,) ..	738	4,267	885	622	253	1,760	2,507	330	134	464
Total	3,644	20,505	4,343	1,790	1,219	7,352	13,153	1,549	512	2,061

V. COSHMA BARONY—24,627 ACRES.

PARISHES.	Families.	Persons.	Employed in Agricult.	Employed in Trade, &c.	Otherwise occupied.	Total Employed.	Unem- ployed.	AT SCHOOLS.	
								Males.	Females.
Uregare, (Part of)	170	1,030	237	57	108	402	628	—	—
Bruff,*	532	2,563	274	535	183	992	1,571	200	89
Adare, (Part of)†	489	2,734	474	225	235	934	1,800	194	116
Crecora, (Part of)	6	45	7	—	7	14	31	—	—
Droichoid-tarsna,	35	203	47	11	7	65	138	73	33
Killonihan, (Part of)	82	446	82	12	26	120	326	—	—
Effin, (Part of)	193	1,174	251	42	86	379	795	140	94
Kilpeacon, (Part of)	54	331	74	11	38	123	208	—	—
Kilbreedy Minor,	74	431	87	12	42	141	290	—	—
Tankardstown, ..	47	293	47	10	49	106	187	—	—
Dromin, ..	195	1,178	252	41	93	386	792	115	36
Tullybracky, ..	128	670	146	20	38	204	466	—	—
Croom, (Part of)‡	824	4,463	863	238	389	1,490	2,973	215	108
Carrigeen, ..	28	134	25	3	10	38	96	—	—
Manister, (Part of)	38	222	56	4	13	73	149	50	30
Athnid, ..	29	168	35	3	12	50	118	—	—
Athlacca, ..	221	1,310	258	51	121	430	880	60	40
Total	3,145	17,395	3,215	1,275	1,457	5,947	11,448	1,047	546
									1,593

* The town of Bruff contains 1,632 inhabitants.

† The town of Adare contains 853 inhabitants.

‡ The town of Croom contains 719 inhabitants.

VI. POBBLE BRIEN BARONY—11,361½ ACRES.

PARISHES.	Families.	Persons.	Employed in Agricult.	Employed in Trade, &c.	Otherwise occupied.	Total Employed.	Unem- ployed.	AT SCHOOLS.	
								Males.	Females. Total.
Manister, (Part of)	168	879	236	155	71	462	417	40	40
Ballycane, (Part of)	167	909	224	169	64	457	452	93	133
Kilpeacon, (Part of)	31	166	41	32	7	80	86	—	—
Knocknegaul, (Part of)	60	292	76	51	16	143	149	—	—
Crecora, (Part of)	183	986	222	79	78	379	607	—	—
Mungret, (Part of)	48	241	67	51	11	129	112	—	—
Killoneihan, (Part of)	138	692	136	93	81	310	382	117	150
Killeenough, ..	66	313	86	32	15	133	180	—	—
Croom, (Part of)	212	1,151	307	170	60	537	614	104	173
Kilkeedy (Part of)	669	3,636	803	563	306	1,672	1,964	288	404
St. Mary's (Part of)	438	1,540	102	307	132	541	999	—	—
Total	2,180	10,805	2,300	1,702	841	4,843	5,962	642	900

VII. KENRY BARONY—12,029 ACRES.

PARISHES.	Families.	Persons.	Employed in Agricult.	Employed in Trade, &c.	Otherwise occupied.	Total Employed.	Unem- ployed.	AT SCHOOLS.	
								Males.	Females. Total.
Iber Russ,	320	1,704	380	214	78	672	1,032	112	52 164
Kilcornan,	730	4,152	822	241	234	1,297	2,855	274	105 379
Adare, (Part of)	278	1,630	321	99	89	509	1,121	97	24 121
Kildimo, ..	619	3,252	616	133	215	964	2,288	312	177 489
Ardcanny,	274	1,627	341	88	118	547	1,080	77	— 77
Chapel Russell, (or Pallas,*)	186	900	124	118	67	309	591	194	164 358
Total	2,407	13,265	2,604	893	801	4,298	8,967	1,066	522 1,588

* The Village of Pallas Kenry contains 516 inhabitants.

VIII. LOWER CONNELLO BARONY—42,649 ACRES.

PARISHES.	Families.	Persons.	Employed in Agricul.	Employed in Trade, &c.	Otherwise occupied.	Total Employed.	Unem- ployed.	AT SCHOOLS.	
								Males.	Females.
Dunmoylan,	236	1,346	248	125	94	467	879	94	54
Nantenan,	448	2,636	421	234	150	805	1,831	118	57
Dundonnell	72	470	67	25	54	146	324	—	—
Kilcoleman,	82	465	71	19	34	124	341	—	—
Cappa, ..	109	632	77	33	41	151	481	90	30
Croagh,* ..	529	3,223	461	115	246	822	2,401	189	114
Clounshire,	91	595	86	18	38	142	453	48	23
Rathkeale,	417	2,604	417	150	230	797	1,807	70	25
Town and Commons, ..	1,020	5,066	406	576	395	1,377	3,689	373	189
Robertstown,	314	1,831	476	291	144	911	920	149	35
Kilbroderan,	137	784	173	134	64	371	413	29	12
Clounagh,	106	630	127	90	83	300	330	38	12
Morgans, ..	120	739	137	106	69	312	427	—	—
Lismakeery,	214	1,274	230	172	111	513	761	130	56
Askeaton,†	632	3,425	519	489	249	1,257	2,168	251	115
Kilscannell,	153	954	169	104	86	359	595	128	65
Ardagh, ..	317	1,859	317	219	174	710	1,149	98	32
Loughill, ..	275	1,682	304	133	144	581	1,101	107	38
Shanagolden,	216	1,284	220	26	105	351	933	78	18
Town,	263	1,430	151	160	102	413	1,017	183	109
Kilfergus,	538	3,235	593	130	231	954	2,281	107	61
Town of Glin,	174	868	58	108	92	258	610	68	28
Kilmoylan,	557	3,244	556	203	246	1,005	2,239	283	102
Rathronan,	412	2,377	317	72	206	595	1,782	208	67
Total	7,432	42,653	6,601	3,732	3,388	13,721	28,932	2,839	1,242
									4,081

* The Village and Townland of Croagh contains 1,496 inhabitants.

† The Town of Askeaton contains 1,239 inhabitants.

X. COSHLEA BARONY—29,978 ACRES.

PARISHES.	Families.	Persons.	Employed in Agricult.	Employed in Trade, &c.	Otherwise occupied.	Total Employed.	Unem- ployed.	AT SCHOOLS.		
								Males.	Females.	Total.
Kilflyn,	143	895	218	107	113	438	457	24	9	33
Ballyorgan Village,	50	254	46	56	21	123	131	31	15	46
Ardpatrick,	357	2,088	454	359	175	988	1,100	174	91	265
Ballyshanboy,	96	601	113	117	47	277	324	27	21	48
Effin, (Part of)	101	623	119	87	78	284	339	—	—	—
Kilfinnan,	385	2,332	524	246	172	942	1,390	58	16	74
— Town,	295	1,405	115	301	107	523	882	349	124	473
Ballingaddy,	147	920	156	77	114	347	573	72	36	108
Bulgadeen,	175	1,091	206	165	98	469	622	88	51	139
Glenroe or Daragh,	283	1,647	380	154	108	642	1,005	137	71	208
Kilbenny,	537	2,841	707	275	175	1,157	1,684	85	36	121
Ballinlanders,	405	2,170	466	272	140	878	1,292	150	52	202
— Village,	57	277	46	47	21	114	163	89	30	119
Galbally,	783	4,590	824	595	345	1,764	2,826	190	85	275
— Village,	80	412	34	92	23	149	263	10	7	17
Glenbrohane,	370	2,082	377	192	155	724	1,358	17	14	31
Ballingarry Village,	29	145	12	19	6	37	108	130	40	170
Knocklong,	421	2,442	420	281	198	899	1,543	225	104	329
Raheen Village,	36	167	22	27	11	60	107	60	10	70
Ballinvana,	426	2,396	452	304	174	930	1,466	4	20	24
Liberties of Kilmallock.—										
St. Peter and Paul,	204	1,234	175	46	140	361	873	—	—	—
Garrynow,	6	48	5	—	9	14	34	—	—	—
Kilmallock Town,	216	904	54	128	73	255	649	249	103	352
Total,	5,602	31,564	5,925	3,947	2,503	12,375	19,189	2,169	935	3,104

SUMMARY OF THE POPULATION OF THE COUNTY OF LIMERICK.

BARONIES.	Families.	Persons.	Employed in Agricult.	Employed in Trade, &c.	Otherwise occupied.	Total Employed.	Unem- ployed.	AT SCHOOLS.		
								Males.	Females.	Total.
I. Owneybeg, ..	1,629	8,651	1,646	609	502	2,757	5,894	267	100	367
II. Coonagh, ..	2,029	12,299	3,032	2,650	1,045	6,727	5,572	567	—	567
III. Clanwilliam, ..	3,072	16,501	2,740	802	1,139	4,681	11,820	916	414	1,330
IV. Small County, ..	3,644	20,505	4,343	1,790	1,219	7,352	13,153	1,549	512	2,061
V. Coshma, ..	3,145	17,395	3,215	1,275	1,457	5,947	11,448	1,047	546	1,593
VI. Pobble Brien, ..	2,180	10,805	2,300	1,702	841	4,843	5,962	642	258	900
VII. Kenry, ..	2,407	13,265	2,604	893	801	4,298	8,967	1,066	522	1,588
VIII. Lower Connello, ..	7,432	42,653	6,601	3,732	3,388	13,721	28,932	2,839	1,242	4,081
IX. Upper Connello, ..	7,606	44,794	8,111	4,720	3,491	16,322	28,472	2,443	804	3,247
X. Coshlea, ..	5,602	31,564	5,925	3,947	2,503	12,375	19,189	2,169	935	3,104
Total	38,746	218,432	40,517	22,120	16,386	79,023	139,409	13,505	5,333	18,838

SUMMARY OF THE AGES OF PERSONS IN THE COUNTY OF LIMERICK.

Under 15 Years.	From 15 to 30.	From 30 to 50.	From 50 to 70.	From 70 to 90.	From 90 to 100 and upwards.	Unascertained.
92,458	65,804	40,449	17,750	1,811	39	121

STATE OF EDUCATION.

Persons under 15 Years	92,458
At Schools	18,838
Children under 5 Years	33,782
Persons capable of instruction, uneducated,...	52,620
	39,838

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT.

Total Population of the County ..	218,432
Employed in Agriculture	40,517
Trade.....	22,120
other Avocations.....	16,386
	79,023
Deduct Children under 15 years	92,458
— Persons above 70	1,850
	94,308
Persons capable of labour, unemployed,.....	45,101

COUNTY OF THE CITY OF LIMERICK.

PARISHES.	Families.	Persons.	Employed in Agricult.	Employed in Trade, &c.	Otherwise occupied.	Total Employed.	Unemployed.	AT SCHOOLS.		
								Males.	Females.	Total.
St. Michael's, ..	3,239	15,068	882	1,714	3,105	5,791	9,277	1,476	1,312	2,788
St. Mary's, (Part of) ..	1,480	6,032	276	1,404	637	2,217	3,815	165	133	2,98
St. John's, ..	2,770	11,797	782	2,683	909	4,374	7,423	495	272	767
St. Munchin's, (Part of) ..	755	3,550	441	696	285	1,422	2,128	105	560	665
Cahervalla, (Part of) ..	196	1,217	332	27	65	424	793	68	20	88
Cahirnarry, (Part of) ..	122	707	180	61	60	301	406	—	—	—
Kilmurry, ..	300	1,859	301	66	133	500	1,359	76	27	103
Derry Galvin, ..	111	637	136	104	73	313	324	14	8	22
Doughmore, ..	344	1,803	352	48	83	483	1,320	47	20	67
Mungret, (Part of) ..	476	2,771	625	134	173	932	1,839	70	25	95
Carrickparson, ..	71	435	121	59	105	281	154	—	—	—
Abington, (Part of) ..	16	97	27	9	17	53	44	—	—	—
Knocknegaul, (Part of) ..	132	798	246	21	67	334	464	60	12	72
Killnagariff, (Part of) ..	215	1,319	331	39	79	449	870	51	26	77
Stradbally, (Part of) ..	142	831	227	16	58	301	530	—	—	—
St. Patrick's, ..	391	2,090	457	105	194	756	1,334	66	27	93
St. Laurence's, ..	227	1,134	143	147	120	410	724	—	—	—
Crecora, (Part of) ..	28	156	32	4	18	54	102	—	—	—
Killeely, ..	461	2,411	374	336	199	909	1,502	41	31	72
Kilkeedy, (Part of) ..	4	26	9	—	13	22	4	—	—	—
St. Nicholas, ..	939	4,307	320	683	463	1,466	2,841	271	90	361
Total	12,419	59,045	6,594	8,352	6,846	21,792	37,253	3,005	2,563	5,568

STATE OF EDUCATION.

Children under 15 Years	22,561
At Schools	5,568
Under 5 Years	8,491
	14,059

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT.

Persons unemployed	37,253
Under 15 years	22,561
Above 70	543
	23,104
Persons capable of instruction, not educated,	8,502
Persons capable of labour, unemployed,	14,149

Tabular View of the Comparative Population of the different Provinces and Counties of Ireland.

ULSTER.

Counties.	Contents in Irish Plantation Acres.	Contents in Irish Square Miles.	Population.	No. of Inhabitants to a Square Mile.
1 Armagh	181,450	283	197,427	697
2 Monaghan	179,600	280	174,697	624
3 Down	348,550	544	325,410	598
4 Antrim and Carrickfergus town	387,200	605	270,883	447
5 Cavan	301,000	470	195,076	415
6 Londonderry	318,500	479	193,869	405
7 Tyrone	463,700	724	261,865	362
8 Fermanagh	283,450	448	130,997	292
9 Donegal	679,550	1,061	248,270	234
	3,143,000	4,894	1,998,494	408

LEINSTER.

1 Dublin and City	142,050	221	335,892	1,520
2 Louth & Drogheda Town	110,750	173	119,129	688
3 Longford	134,150	209	107,570	514
4 Kilkenny and City	300,350	469	181,946	388
5 Carlow	137,050	214	78,952	369
6 Queen's County	235,300	367	134,275	366
7 Westmeath	231,550	361	128,819	357
8 Wexford	342,900	535	170,806	319
9 Meath	327,900	512	159,183	311
10 King's County	282,200	440	131,088	298
11 Kildare	236,750	369	99,065	268
12 Wicklow	311,600	486	110,767	228
	2,792,550	4,356	1,757,492	403

MUNSTER.

1 Limerick and City	386,750	604	277,477	459
2 Cork and City	1,048,800	1,638	730,444	446
3 Tipperary	554,950	867	346,896	400
4 Waterford and City	262,800	410	156,521	381
5 Clare	476,200	744	208,089	280
6 Kerry	647,650	1,012	216,185	213
	3,377,150	5,275	1,935,612	367

CONNAUGHT.

1 Roscommon	346,650	541	208,729	385
2 Sligo	247,150	386	146,229	378
3 Leitrim	255,950	400	124,785	312
4 Mayo	790,600	1,235	293,112	237
5 Galway and Town	989,950	1,546	337,374	218
	2,630,300	4,108	1,110,229	270

Comparative Extent and Population of the Four Provinces :

	Irish Plantation Acres.	Square Miles.	Population	Individuals to a Square Mile.
Ulster ..	3,143,000	4,894	1,998,494	408
Leinster ..	2,792,550	4,356	1,757,492	403
Munster ..	3,377,150	5,275	1,935,612	367
Connaught	2,630,300	4,108	1,110,229	270
	11,943,000*	18,633	6,801,827	365†

} Average of Ire-
land.

* This total is exclusive of Lough Neagh, the contents of which could not be included in the above Table, as not being entirely within the limits of any one County ; it is computed by Beaufort to contain 58,200 acres, which, being added to the preceding total, will make the superficies of Ireland to contain 12,001,200 Irish acres.

† A considerable discrepancy may appear between this calculation and the statement at page 222 ; but that gives the number of individuals to an English, the present to an Irish square mile.

Tabular View of the State of Employment in the different Counties and Cities of Ireland, according to the Census of 1821.

ULSTER.

Counties, &c.	Operative Persons, aged From 15 to 70.	Employed	Un-employed.	Number Employed per Cent.
1 Monaghan	101,945	103,435	—	•102
2 Donegal	141,272	140,091	1,181	99
3 Armagh	115,263	110,608	4,655	90
4 Londonderry	113,626	108,956	4,670	96
5 Cavan	110,754	98,913	11,841	96
6 Antrim	151,546	133,644	17,902	89
7 Down	187,713	167,268	20,445	89
8 Tyrone	154,257	133,705	20,552	87
9 Carrickfergus [Town] ..	4,624	3,724	900	81
10 Fermanagh	75,495	56,394	19,101	75
	1,156,495	1,056,738	99,757	Average 91

CONNAUGHT.

1 Mayo	164,791	159,805	4,986	97
2 Leitrim	67,226	63,119	4,107	93
3 Sligo	83,590	75,180	8,410	90
4 Roscommon	117,437	90,147	27,290	77
5 Galway	176,850	125,450	51,400	71
6 — — — Town	16,970	8,659	8,311	61
	626,864	522,360	104,504	Average 82

LEINSTER.

1 Louth	59,807	47,365	12,442	79
2 Longford	60,780	47,474	13,306	78
3 Dublin [City]	123,307	83,214	40,093	68
4 Drogheda [Town]	11,169	7,604	3,565	68
5 Meath	93,088	62,018	31,070	66
6 King's	73,801	45,781	28,020	63
7 Dublin	91,524	56,350	35,174	61
8 Kildare	56,130	34,114	22,016	60
9 Wicklow	60,523	35,193	25,330	58
10 Kilkenny [City]	14,322	7,924	6,398	56
11 Queen's	76,164	41,703	34,461	55
12 Westmeath	89,939	48,689	41,250	54
13 Wexford	101,934	54,728	47,206	54
14 Carlow	44,756	23,220	21,536	52
15 Kilkenny	91,326	46,281	45,045	51
	1,048,570	641,658	406,912	Average 62

* It appears that in this county, 1490 persons are employed beyond the number returned by the Census, between the ages of 15 and 70.

MUNSTER.

Counties, &c.	Operative Persons, Aged From 15 to 70.	Employed.	Un-employed.	Number Employed per Cent.
1 Cork [City]	52,375	35,164	17,211	67
2 Limerick	127,003	79,023	47,980	62
3 ——— [City]	35,941	21,792	14,149	60
4 Clare	115,219	69,127	46,092	60
5 Waterford [City]	17,790	10,405	7,385	58
6 Kerry	123,042	70,371	52,671	57
7 Tipperary	197,096	113,095	84,001	55
8 Cork	357,117	181,011	176,106	51
9 Waterford	74,148	36,071	38,077	49
	1,099,731	616,059	483,672	Average 57

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYMENT IN IRELAND.

	Operative Persons from 15--70	Employed in Agricult.	Employed in Trade, &c.	Otherwise occupied.	Total Employed.	Unemployed.	No. per cent. employed.
Ulster....	1,156,495	328,793	584,127	143,818	1,056,738	99,757	91
Connaught	626,864	236,605	224,165	61,590	522,360	104,504	83
Leinster..	1,048,570	252,608	215,835	173,215	641,658	406,912	62
Munster..	1,099,731	320,063	145,917	150,079	616,059	483,672	57
	3,931,660	1,138,069	1,170,044	528,702	2,836,815	1,094,845	*67½

* Average of Ireland.

Thus it appears that more than four-sevenths of the operative population of Ireland are employed in agriculture or trade—one-seventh in the liberal professions, offices under Government, or other situations of emolument, and nearly two-sevenths, or 1,094,845 individuals wholly unoccupied! It is worthy of remark, that of this number nearly nine hundred thousand are to be found in the fertile provinces of Leinster and Munster. In the unemployed class, the Nobility and Gentry must be necessarily included; but they bear a very small proportion to the great mass of the population.

Tabular View of the Comparative State of Education in the different Counties and Cities throughout Ireland, according to the Census of 1821:—

LEINSTER.

Counties, Cities, &c.	Persons between 5 and 15.	At Schools.	No. per Cent, Under Instruction.
1 Kilkenny City	5,224	2,666	51
2 Dublin City	36,116	13,983	38
3 Carlow	21,119	7,012	34
4 Kilkenny	41,725	11,845	29
5 Wicklow	29,545	8,705	29
6 Dublin	34,136	9,442	28
7 Drogheda Town	4,171	1,147	28
8 Wexford	42,374	11,854	28
9 Kildare	25,750	6,391	26
10 Longford	28,662	7,421	26
11 King's	34,477	8,132	24
12 Westmeath	33,258	7,326	22
13 Meath	40,197	7,629	19
14 Queen's	35,130	6,823	19
15 Louth	24,781	3,922	16
	436,665	114,298	Average 26

MUNSTER.

1 Cork City	22,903	9,902	43
2 Limerick City	14,070	5,568	40
3 Waterford City	6,486	2,029	32
4 Limerick	58,676	18,838	32
5 Cork	166,497	40,443	24
6 Clare	56,332	11,953	22
7 Kerry	57,107	13,638	22
8 Tipperary	92,441	20,746	22
9 Waterford	32,946	6,178	16
	507,458	129,295	Average 25

ULSTER.

1 Carrickfergus Town ..	1,941	788	41
2 Antrim	65,928	20,788	31
3 Armagh	49,272	12,407	25
4 Down	80,934	19,546	24
5 Fermanagh	34,295	6,335	19
6 Tyrone	67,041	12,562	19
7 Cavan	52,504	8,806	17
8 Monaghan	44,735	7,260	16
9 Donegal	65,655	9,521	15
10 Londonderry	49,778	6,721	14
	512,083	104,734	Average *20½

*Including Sunday-Schools, the average of Ulster is 31.

CONNAUGHT.

Counties, Cities, &c.	Persons between 5 and 15.*	At Schools.	No. per Cent. Under Instruction.
1 Galway Town	6,354	1,959	31
2 Sligo	37,771	8,865	23
3 Roscommon	54,983	10,287	19
4 Leitrim	35,212	5,189	15
5 Galway	80,203	10,851	14
6 Mayo	77,934	9,335	12
Total	292,457	46,486	Average 16

SUMMARY OF EDUCATION IN IRELAND.

Provinces.	Persons from 5 to 15.	At Schools.	No. per Cent. Under Instruction.
Leinster	436,665	114,298	26
Munster	507,458	129,295	25
Ulster	512,083	104,734	20½
Connaught	292,457	46,486	16
Total	1,748,663	394,813	Average 22

* The period of Education, (between 5 and 15 years,) may, perhaps, be deemed too limited; but if many above and below those ages, are to be found in Schools, perhaps an equal number within the prescribed period, have been taken from School to assist in the various avocations of their parents.

That the average of Ulster in regard to Education, should appear so low, when that Province is so decidedly prosperous in every other particular of national statistics, may seem extraordinary at first view; but we think the difficulty may be satisfactorily explained. The Enumerators did not in their Returns include the Sunday Schools, supposing that all the pupils who attended them, were also to be found at the daily schools. But it is well known that more than one half of the children who frequent Sunday Schools, particularly in Ulster where they most abound, attend no other place of instruction, their parents, who are generally poor manufacturers, having employment for them at home during the week. The number of scholars at Sunday Schools in the province of Ulster in 1821, between the ages of five and fifteen, was 102,549, within little more than two thousand of the total number under Education returned by the Census. As we have sufficient reason to conclude that more than fifty thousand of those attend no other schools, the proportionate education of Ulster should be estimated at 30 or 31 per cent. The total number of children educated in Sunday Schools throughout Ireland at present is as follows:

Provinces.	Scholars.	Proportion to the Population	Adding one-half of these, or 75,000 to the number of persons under instruc- tion, as returned by the Enumerators, the total will be 470,000; leaving more than 1,300,000 of our growing population without education!
Ulster	118,271	1 to 17	
Leinster	20,823	1 to 86	
Connaught	5,056	1 to 208	
Munster	6,681	1 to 300	
	150,831	1 to 45	

Tabular View of Comparative Longevity in the different Provinces of Ireland.

ULSTER.

Counties, &c.	Gross Population.	Persons from 70 to 100 and upwards.	Proportion to Population.	Persons 90 to 100 Years.	Persons 100 Years & upwards.
Down	325,410	6,767	1 in 48	166	13
Antrim & Town of Carrick-fergus	270,883	5,140	1 — 52	88	19
Armagh	197,427	3,133	1 — 63	68	13
Londonderry	193,869	2,926	1 — 66	63	4
Tyrone	261,865	3,938	1 — 66	70	12
Donegal	248,270	3,558	1 — 69	74	20
Fermanagh	130,997	1,760	1 — 74	56	6
Monaghan	174,697	1,943	1 — 89	40	1
Cavan	195,076	1,990	1 — 98	44	6
	1,998,494	31,155	1 — 64	669	94

LEINSTER.

Kilkenny City	23,230	342	1 in 68	11	6
Wexford	170,806	2,478	1 — 69	68	4
Wicklow	110,767	1,590	1 — 69	38	2
Queen's	134,275	1,672	1 — 80	33	8
Louth	101,011	1,209	1 — 83	20	2
Carlow	78,952	938	1 — 84	32	1
King's	131,088	1,551	1 — 84	46	2
Dublin	150,011	1,735	1 — 86	48	9
Kildare	99,065	1,152	1 — 86	23	3
Westmeath	128,819	1,488	1 — 86	35	9
Kilkenny	158,716	1,826	1 — 87	37	4
Meath	159,183	1,761	1 — 90	48	2
Dublin City	185,881	1,841	1 — 101	64	4
Longford	107,570	1,065	1 — 101	29	6
Drogheda Town	18,118	173	1 — 104	2	—
	1,757,492	20,821	1 — 84	534	62

MUNSTER.

Waterford City	28,679	353	1 in 81	8	1
Waterford	127,842	1,491	1 — 85	44	8
Cork City	100,658	1,170	1 — 86	24	11
Cork	629,786	6,649	1 — 94	179	22
Kerry	216,185	2,169	1 — 99	53	24
Clare	208,089	1,833	1 — 113	45	9
Limerick City	59,045	516	1 — 114	16	1
Limerick	218,432	1,850	1 — 118	31	8
Tipperary	346,896	2,567	1 — 135	53	5
	1,935,612	18,598	1 — 104	452	89

CONNAUGHT.

Counties, &c.	Gross Population.	Persons from 70 to 100 and upwards.	Proportion to Population.	Persons 90 to 100. Years.	Persons 100 Years and Upwards.
Galway Town.....	27,775	375	1 in 74	10	—
Sligo.....	146,229	1,567	1 — 92	43	10
Galway	309,599	3,164	1 — 97	117	36
Mayo.....	293,112	2,872	1 — 102	66	47
Leitrim.....	124,785	1,024	1 — 121	24	3
Roscommon.....	208,729	1,615	1 — 129	48	8
	1,110,229	10,617	1 — 104	308	104

SUMMARY OF COMPARATIVE LONGEVITY.

Ulster	1,998,494	31,155	1 in 64	669	94
Leinster	1,757,492	20,821	1 — 84	534	62
Munster	1,935,612	18,598	1 — 104	452	89
Connaught	1,110,229	10,617	1 — 104	308	104
	6,801,827	81,191	1 — 83*	1963	349

*Average of Ireland.

It is worthy of observation, that in each province instances of longevity are most numerous in those counties bordering on the sea. That they should prevail in those districts where employment, and consequently superior nourishment, and other comforts abound, is not a matter of wonder. Hence the longevity of Ulster exceeds that of Leinster by a ratio of one-fifth, and that of Munster and Connaught by two-fifths per cent. This may also be in part attributable to its northern situation.

Dividing the population of Ireland into four grand classes, with respect to age, the Census of 1821 presents to our view, the following lamentable picture of the state of a country abounding with every means of industry, and with able and willing hands to cultivate them, in the most enlightened and civilized period of the world:—

Infants of 5 years and under..	1,040,665	{ One-half, at least, badly fed and clothed.
Children from 5 to 15	1,748,663	
Operative persons from 15 to 70—	3,931,660	{ 1,300,000 of whom are wholly destitute of education!
Aged above 70	81,191	
		{ 1,094,845 without employment!
		{ A great proportion of whom are paupers.



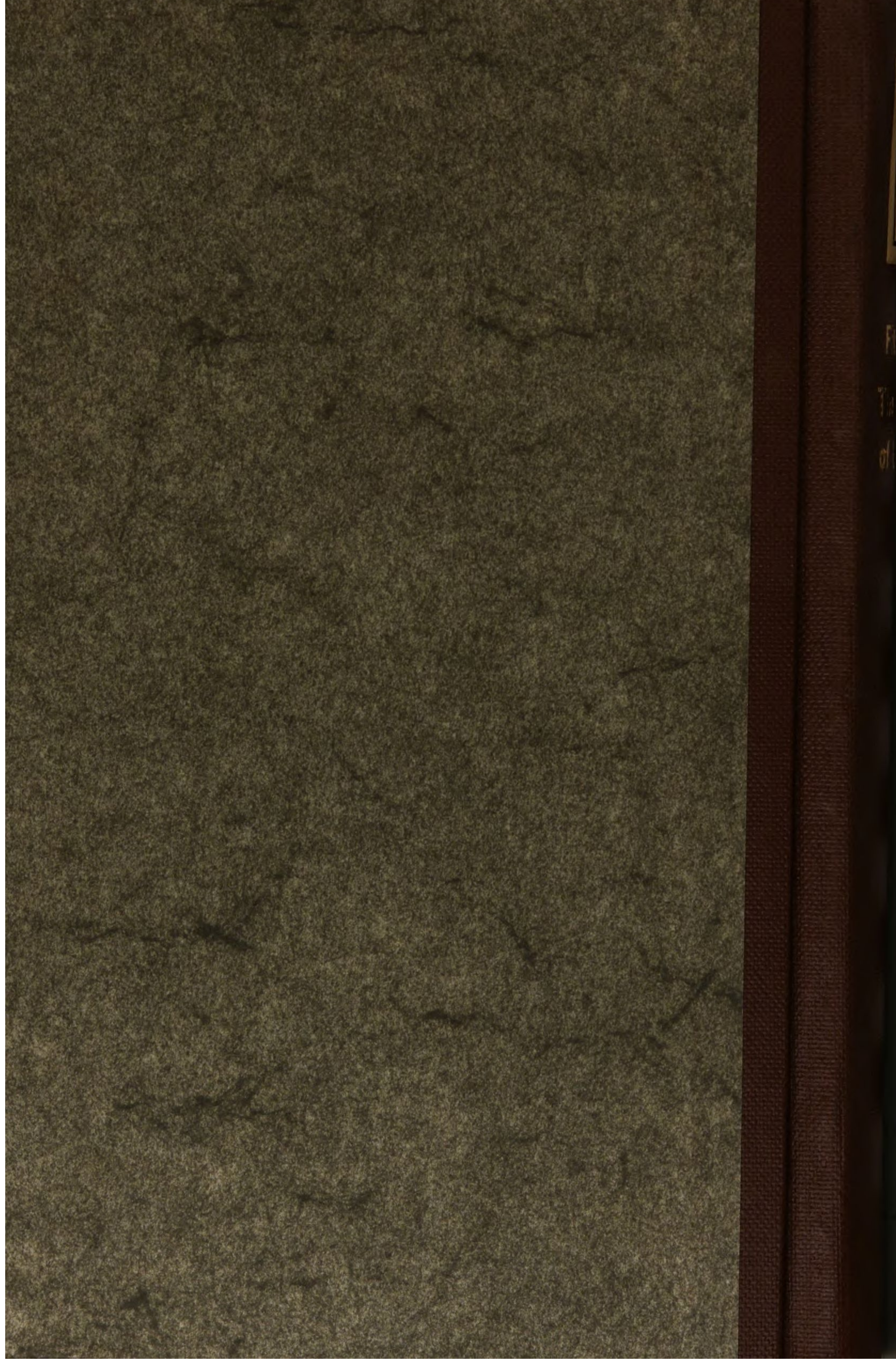
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Fitzgerald, Patrick,

The history, topography and antiquities, of the county and city of
Limerick with a preliminary view of the history and antiquities of Ireland

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Dublin (1826)

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